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Champion
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Residents up in arms over village mast plan

University and drinks giant raise funds for heart charity

All smiles... Jon Hickling and Helen Parkin, the bank's new branch manager who teamed up to ensure the swifts would return to Parbold

Village set to welcome back feathered friends

VILLAGERS in West Lancashire are looking forward to welcoming back a group of feathered friends this year - thanks to the efforts of staff at a local bank and a community-spirited resident.

Swifts have nested at the RBS Bank in Parbold for many years until building alterations threatened to stop them coming.

Resident Jon Hickling had noticed that work on the bank had resulted in poor breeding success among the swift population last year.

So he liaised with the bank to reverse the measures, which were stopping the swifts nesting at the bank.

Full story inside...

LIBRARIES AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES FACE AXE

County council to seek consultation on proposals in bid to save £200m

Report by **Henry James**

THREE West Lancashire libraries and three children's centres are threatened with closure as part of Lancashire County Council proposals to save £200m by 2020/21.

A day care centre for older people and a children's social care facility in the borough are also under threat following the announcement last week which, it is feared, could result in the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Libraries earmarked for closure are at Burscough library in Mill Lane, Parbold library on The Common and Up Holland library at Hall Green.

Moorgate Children's Centre in Ormskirk is also facing the axe as are Hesketh with Becconsall Children's Centre and St John's Children's Centre, Skelmersdale.

Ormskirk's Derby Street Day Centre for older people and the Children's Social Care facility at Fairlie, Skelmersdale could also be closed under the proposals.

County Councillor Mein

The county council plan to reduce the number of fixed locations where people can access libraries from 73 to 44. It is proposed that 37 of these will offer a fully-staffed service while seven will operate as unstaffed 'satellite' libraries where people can use self-service counters to collect books which they have reserved and return books.

This will be supported by the county council's mobile library service, home library service and virtual library services, which allow people to access e-books, e-audiobooks and online reference services.

The authority are proposing to bring services "together to form a network of multi-functional buildings known as Neighbourhood Centres, which would provide a base for a range of different services in one place."

Councillors are being asked to give the go-ahead for a 12-week consultation period, starting on Wednesday, May 18, inviting comments and suggestions about the proposals, before taking a final decision later this year.

Leader of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Jenny Mein, said: "The severity of the county council's financial position cannot be overstated and the ongoing cuts in central government funding combined with rising demand for our services mean the only way we can maintain the services that people rely on is to deliver them in a different way. I'm acutely aware that people have a very strong connection to their local services, particularly places like libraries which are often seen as a valuable part of the community.

"These proposals are very difficult ones for councillors to have to consider, but our aim is to come up with a solution that still gives everyone in Lancashire good access to good services, even though some will have to be further away than they are now.

"The cabinet report reflects a lot of hard work to assess where services should be located, taking account of things such as geographic spread, the needs of different communities, and access issues such as public transport and car parking.

"Following the cabinet meeting we intend to put these plans out to consultation and we'll be very keen for people to express their views and help shape the final proposals."

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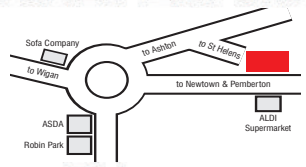

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Labour retain control of borough council

LABOUR retained control of West Lancashire Borough Council following last Thursday's local elections, increasing their majority by one in the process at the expense of the Conservatives.

One seat in each of the 18 of the borough council wards were up for grabs but the only change came in Halsall where Labour's Maureen Mills defeated Tory Doreen Stephenson by just 24 votes.

However, Councillor Adrian Owens, representing the independent Our West Lancashire group, retained his Derby ward seat despite a strong challenge by Labour.

The make-up of the authority now sees Labour with 31 seats, the Conservatives with 22 and Our West Lancashire with one.

Turn-out was 35.3% and full results were as follows:

Ashurst
Gail Pamela Hodson (Labour) 1,011 votes
William Gilmour (Green Party) 220
David Jonathan Griffiths (Conservative) 168

Aughton & Downholland
Samuel Currie (Con) 952
Tom Phillips (Lab) 686

Birch Green
Claire Cooper (Lab) 662
William John Weingart (Con) 83

Burscough East
David Evans (Lab) 760
Rob Bailey (Con) 541

Burscough West
Andrew John Pritchard (Lab) 912
Leon Graham (Con) 542

Derby
Adrian Edward Owens (Our West Lancashire) 806
Liam Blacklock (Lab) 710
Tom Burton (Con) 339
Heather Doyle (Green) *72*

Digmoor
Kevin William Henry Wilkie (Lab) 784
Richard Henry Shepherd (Con) 63

Halsall
Maureen Kathleen Patricia Mills (Lab) 313
Doreen Joan Stephenson (Con) 289
John Stewart Simpson Stewart (UKIP) 118

Hesketh-with-Becconsall
Paul Moon (Con) 578
Sally Josephine Hodson (Lab) 333

Knowsley
Adam Gerard Yates (Lab) 1,063
Edward James McCarthy (Con) 744
Peter John Banks (OWL) 173
Gaynor Anne Pickering (Green) 85

Moorside
Terence Aldridge (Lab) 725
George Ernest Pratt (Con) 70

Rufford
John Ian Gordon (Con) 472
Natalie June McCulloch (Lab) 188

Scott
Kevin John Wright (Lab) 770
Jane Thompson (OWL) 640
David John Meadows (Con) 300
Maurice Henry George (Green) 82

Skelmersdale North
Neil Stuart Furey (Lab)856
Susan Ingrid Janvier (Con) 98

Skelmersdale South
Donna Marie Eileen West (Lab) 1,089
Jenni Mayer (Con) 138
Martin John Lowe (Green) 115

Tarleton
John Philip Cairns (Con) 1,077
Frederick Andrew Hodson (Lab) 522

Up Holland
Gaynar Owen (Lab) 1,113
Jane Houlgrave (Con) 529

Wrightington
Carolyn Margaret Evans (Con) 668
Bernadette Green (Lab) 432
Julie Hotchkiss (Green) 148

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Villagers' fury over mast plan

RESIDENTS are up in arms over an application to build a 14-metre (46ft) high radio wave antenna in the middle of Rufford village at the telephone exchange on Liverpool Road.

Report by **Henry James**

They are claiming that the people behind the application are taking advantage of a loophole which they say omits the telephone exchange site from the conservation area.

The application has been submitted by Arqiva and would include the installation of an electronic communication base station, comprising a monopole mast with attached Omni antenna and GPS unit. It would provide coverage for Arqiva's planned smart metering network.

Arqiva have said that their application is within the conservation area.

In the last few years planners turned down an application made by BT for a 14-metre microwave transmitting mast, again at the telephone exchange site at Rufford.

Speaking on behalf of the residents, Mike Garrity, who lives next door to the telephone exchange, claimed: "BT are at it again, through their contractor Arqiva. Arqiva have applied for planning permission to erect a 14-metre high microwave antenna on the site.

"There is a loophole in the regulations that BT are exploiting. The telephone exchange site is not included in the conservation area, despite being surrounded by it.

"The antenna will be totally out of scale with the buildings and houses and will seriously impinge on the designated conservation area status of the village.

"The mast will destroy views of the village. It will be above the trees in the area and people will be able to see it for miles.

"We are striving to keep Rufford as beautiful as we can and this proposal will not help our efforts. It will be a blight on the landscape and we are really concerned about it.

"The letters sent by the planners have only gone to a few houses around the site. However all the people in the village will be affected by this development if it goes ahead."

A spokeswoman for Arquiva responded: "Arqiva can confirm that we have put in a full planning application for a slim monopole mast to be erected at this telephone exchange which is within the Rufford Park conservation area, not outside it.

"The top of the mast and the omni antenna have to be above the tree line in order for the technology to work, however we included photo montages and an arboricultural survey with our application which will enable the planning authority to make a fair and realistic assessment of the impact.

"We would also point out that the mast will transmit nothing other than ordinary radio waves at very modest power.

"Arqiva consulted with West Lancashire Borough Council before putting in our application and we have taken their views into account in the application itself.

"As part of Arqiva's normal application planning process we undertook some initial consultation with residents in the immediate vicinity of the site at the pre-planning stage but of course full consultation is a key part of the planning authority's process, and following this, the council will then make their decision.

"To give some wider context, the application relates to a nationally important project to put in place the communications infrastructure necessary to enable smart metering.

"Smart metering is one of the top priority projects included in the National Infrastructure Delivery Plan and is a key part of the government's programme to cut greenhouse gas emissions, decarbonise the economy and support the creation of new green jobs and technologies.

"Smart metering gives the consumer the information to monitor, and therefore control, their use of precious resources."

Mike Garrity (right) and fellow Rufford residents who are up in arms over plans for a telecommunications mast in the village.

Galloway's community fundraiser, Anna Eddowes-Scott, with the knitted chick knitters and project members.

Rotary Club's helping hand for blind charity

THE Rotary Club of Ormskirk Clocktower has made a £500 donation to local charity, Galloway's Society for the Blind which supports those living with sight loss in the Sefton and North Lancashire area.

The club raised more than £2,500 for charity this year with their knitted chicks project. A special 'thank-you' coffee morning was held at St Aidan's Village Hall to acknowledge the efforts of those who have been busy knitting and working behind the scenes running the project.

Anna Eddowes-Scott, community fundraiser for Galloway's Society for the Blind, commented: "It was a pleasure to go along to the coffee morning and acknowledge the time and effort put into this project by all those involved.

"Galloway's are so grateful to individuals and community groups, like Ormskirk Clocktower Rotary and their members, who hear about the valuable services that we provide for those living with sight loss and choose to support us through their fundraising.

"We are really looking forward to exploring different ways that Galloway's and Ormskirk Clocktower Rotary can continue to work together in the future."

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THE Champion's team of distributors, our foot soldiers as we like to call them, each and every week bring our award-winning newspaper to your door.

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Trust decision on suspended health chiefs is now well past deadline

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

IT was hoped that by April the ongoing saga of the suspended bosses at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust would have been over.

But now, into the second week in May, more than two months after trust chair Sue Musson optimistically suggested the investigation would be concluded by 'early April' the Champion understands that there is still no change - with the cost to the taxpayers soaring with each and every week of the prolonged inquiry.

Although little is known about why the action was taken against the health bosses, chief executive Jonathan Parry, chief operating officer Sheilah Finnegan, human resources director Sharon Partington and deputy director of performance Richard McCarthy were all suspended last August following whistleblowing allegations.

They continue to be paid while the now nine-month investigation rolls on – with no timeframe for when the results are expected. Once the findings are passed to the trust, time will still be needed for bosses to act accordingly.

Jonathan Parry

Throughout the ongoing investigation concerns have been raised about the sheer amount of money being spent by the trust who have had to bring in temporary replacements to do the work of the excluded bosses who it is understood have been on full pay during the investigations.

The current figure stands at well over £200,000 having been spent in salaries – which legally they are entitled to during their exclusion.

The Champion understands that chief executive Jonathan Parry has been paid in the region of £100,000 in the nine months that he has been excluded from his role. His annual salary stands at the top end of £165,000, according to the annual trust report from 2014/2015.

Trust chair Sue Musson told the Champion: "The trust excluded four members of staff, the chief executive, the chief operating officer, the human resources director and the deputy director of performance, on August 4, 2015.

"The exclusions followed an independent external investigation into three separate whistleblowing complaints received by the trust.

"A second investigation was then commissioned under the trust's disciplinary policy. That investigation is being carried out by another external organisation. The investigation is progressing. Once completed, the trust will review the appropriate next steps."

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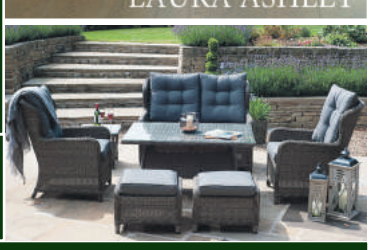
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New planning bids for student accommodation submitted to council

TWO new proposals for student accommodation in Ormskirk town centre have been put forward.

The plans, for Church Street and Burscough Street, are among the latest applications submitted to West Lancs Borough Council.

Developers want to demolish buildings at 22, 22b and 22c and at 24 and 24b Church Street and replace them with a new construction.

This would comprise commercial units on the ground floor with student accommodation above. It would be split over four storeys and divided into six clusters ranging from five to six rooms.

Planning permission was granted in 2014 by the council for the demolition of number 22 Church Street and the erection of a replacement four-storey building comprising 20 student accommodation bedspaces to the upper floors.

The permission remains extant until December 2017.

A planning, heritage and student needs assessment by Emery Planning says that the application seeks to incorporate number 24, which is "of equally little architectural and historic merit, in order to secure a comprehensive redevelopment of the site."

An artist's impression of what the Church Street development will look like

In conclusion the spokesman for Emery Planning added: "For many reasons, the proposed development would be a significant asset to the town of Ormskirk. It would be highly sustainable in terms of accessibility; efficient use of land; contribution to the local economy and the vitality, viability and profile of Ormskirk town centre; alleviating pressure on the family housing market; and contributing to meeting a demonstrable need for student accommodation."

The application for Burscough Street is for the conversion of the flat over the shop to a five-bedroom student HMO.

Decisions on the applications are expected in the coming months.

Car collision witness plea

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a road traffic collision in which three men were injured.

The accident occurred at around 3.30am on Thursday, May 5 when a blue Ford Fiesta in which the men were travelling along Southport Road towards Ormskirk failed to negotiate a left-hand bend, causing it to spin and hit a wall on Grimshaw Lane.

Road policing Sergeant Mick Young said: "We need anyone who may have seen the car travelling along Southport Road and the subsequent collision to contact us on 101."

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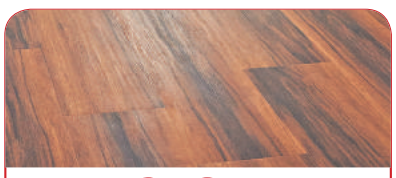

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Swifts can bank on a return to their Parbold 'home'!

Report by **Henry James**

The nesting boxes at the bank

A COLONY of swifts will be able to return to nest again in the roof of a West Lancashire bank - thanks to the efforts of a local bird-lover and staff.

Up to half a dozen or more pairs of swifts have nested in gaps in the stone work under the large over-hanging eaves of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) building in Parbold bank for many years.

Last year the old wooden and well weathered fascias and soffit boards of the building had to be replaced with new ones made of PVC before the swifts returned in May 2015. The work resulted in poor breeding success, since over half of the colony's swifts had been excluded.

It was what then followed that set alarm bells ringing and gave cause for swift action by Jon Hickling. He was concerned to see netting being fixed over the eaves. It was being put there to prevent birds gaining access to the building and because the bank had had many a false alarm go off in the bank building.

Jon discussed the importance of the swift colony with Helen Parkin, the bank's new branch manager. She immediately took action and contacted the Banks' Property Services, to see what could be done to reverse the measures being put in place to protect the colony, while making sure the bank building would be secure from future false alarms.

After further discussions involving the Property Services department of RBS, the local branch manager and the RSPB's local Conservation adviser, Gavin Thomas, a satisfactory range of measures were agreed and implemented before the swifts return this May- including the removal of all netting, the unblocking of former nest entrances covered by new PVC soffits and facias, as well as the erection of five new wooden swift nest boxes.

Jon Hickling said: "The thought of summer skies above Parbold without swifts was just unthinkable It would be such a travesty for towns and villages up and down the country to lose their screaming parties of fast flying and acrobatic swifts. Swifts are remarkable masters of the skies.

"The remedial action of RBS should be praised, since it demonstrates how problems regarding the renovation of old buildings can be overcome without losing the nesting locations of all important swift colonies within a building.

"The story in Parbold is a good one since it shows what can be done to protect this rapidly declining species."

Children and staff from the nursery with their seeds

Nursery project is Rocket Science!

YOUNGSTERS at a nursery in Ormskirk are preparing to embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

The Portico Kindergarten, based at Aughton Town Green Primary, was one of a host of schools nationwide, selected to take part in an educational project called Rocket Science, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School gardening and the UK Space Agency.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) on Soyuz 44S where they were kept in microgravity before returning to Earth in March.

The nursery children receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the difference between the two over seven weeks.

The children won't know which packet contains which seeds until all the results have been collected by the RHS and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

The experiment aims to encourage children to think about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.

Jane Waterson, nursery manager and Sara Molyneux, pre school nursery practitioner at Portico Kindergarten, said: "We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science.

"The experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our children to think more scientifically and share their findings with the whole nursery."

Rocket Science is just one project from a programme developed by the UK Space Agency to celebrate British astronaut Tim Peake's Principia mission to the ISS and inspire young people to look into careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, including horticulture.

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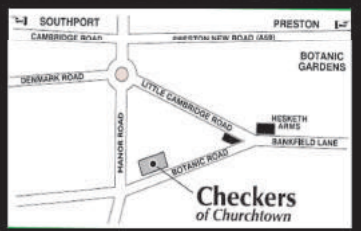

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MP calls for talks on future of Manchester rail commuter routes

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is calling on Arriva Rail North to get round a table with Merseytravel to discuss plans to save morning and evening services to Oxford Road and Piccadilly stations in Manchester for the benefit of passengers on the Southport to Manchester route.

At present there are plans to end direct rail services to Manchester Piccadilly on the Southport to Manchester line which goes through West Lancashire.

Under the proposals all services instead would terminate at Manchester Victoria and passengers would have to change trains, walk or travel by tram to get across the city.

However, Merseytravel has indicated its willingness to consider running a limited service to Manchester Piccadilly for business travellers in the morning and evening rush hours.

Ms Cooper has expressed her opposition to the current proposals under the new franchise held by Arriva Rail North, which would hit many West Lancashire commuters travelling to work, university or the airport in Manchester.

Rosie Cooper

The MP said: "By making all trains on the Southport to Manchester rail service use Manchester Victoria means passengers who work or attend university on the other side of the city will face further travel each morning or evening.

"I do not believe the current proposals for all services on the Southport to Manchester route to use Manchester Victoria is for the benefit of passengers, rather it benefits the rail company.

"These service changes will have a major impact on many West Lancashire commuters and we need to find a better solution.

"I very much welcome Merseytravel's willingness to sit down with Arriva and explore the option of continuing services through to Manchester Piccadilly, even if it is only a limited service in the morning and evening when people most need that service."

A spokesperson for Arriva Rail North told the Champion: "The new Northern franchise includes some proposed changes to some of our end-destinations between Southport and Manchester, which if agreed would go ahead in December 2017 but will not reduce the number of trains serving Southport and other stations on these lines.

"The proposed changes are due to major updates to the North West rail infrastructure, including more electrification and a new section of track in Manchester, the Ordsall Chord. While these changes will enable major improvements, there are major challenges to how we manage services to the west of Manchester, some of our busiest railway corridors.

"There are several months before the proposals need to be finalised. During this time we will consult with stakeholders along this route and carefully consider their concerns before final plans are submitted."

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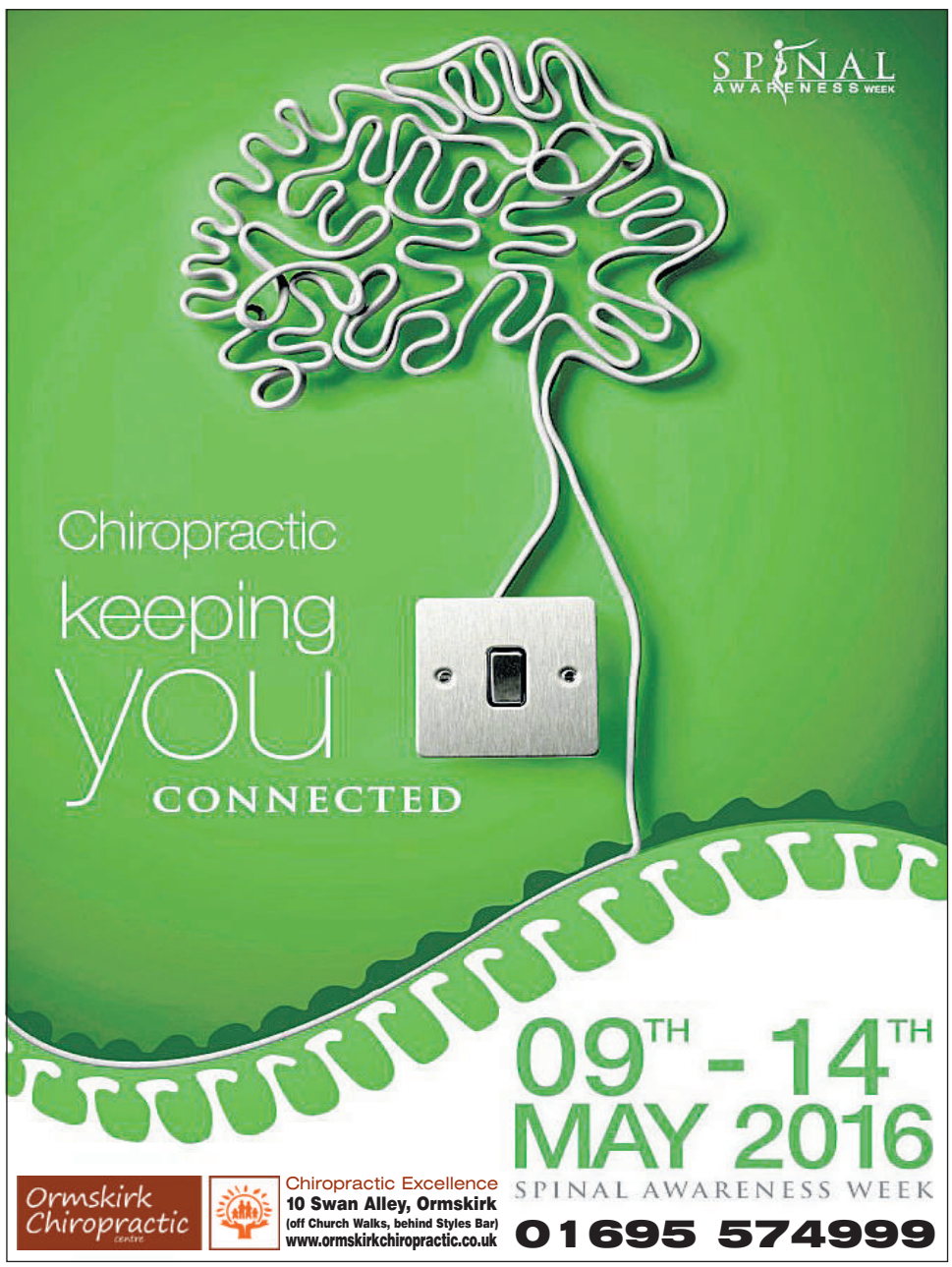

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Are you connected?

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BURSCOUGH, LANCASHIRE

A gold car tour of the area in March failed to find the missing Lotto Millionaire Raffle winner.

Clock is ticking for £1m raffle winner

THE clock is ticking for a mystery local lottery winner who has just over a week to claim a Lotto Millionaire Raffle prize.

The lucky ticket, with the code Lime 8233 8540 drawn out in a special Lotto draw on Saturday, November 21, was bought in the West Lancashire or Southport area.

However, the holder of the ticket has yet to come forward to claim their £1milllion prize - and the six-month deadline of Thursday, May 19 is fast approaching.

A gold Aston Martin was driven around Southport and West Lancs in March in a bid to jog people's memories and try to find the missing £1m Lotto raffle number winner.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "Time really is running out for the winner of this prize, but we are still hopeful that someone will come forward at the very last minute to claim the money.

"We're urging everyone to check their old tickets one final time or look anywhere a missing Lotto ticket could be hiding.

"This life-changing prize could really help to make dreams become a reality for someone out there."

If you think you may have the winning ticket call the National Lottery Line on 0845 910 0000 or 0844 338 7551 or email help@national-lottery.co.uk.

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University teams up with drinks giant to raise funds for heart charity

EDGE Hill University joined forces with leading heart charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (Cry) to offer free cardiac screening sessions for staff and students.

Maureen Marshall, who works in the university's catering department, was a founder for the initiative and works tirelessly to encourage students to take the tests in memory of her son John, who died suddenly from a condition known as Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC) in 1995, aged just 16.

John, from Ormskirk, was a promising footballer who was due to join Everton on the day he collapsed.

Edge Hill has also collaborated with soft drinks giant Coca Cola to raise money to fund the heart screenings. For every bottle of the company's Abbey Well water sold, Coca Cola, in conjunction with The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO), will donate 5p to the John Marshall Memorial Fund with CRY.

Sarah Smith, a representative from Coca Cola, visited Edge Hill to present the catering team with a cheque for £2,260 raised from sales of Abbey Well water - the amount equates to more than 45,000 bottles of the still spring water.

Sarah Smith from Coca Cola presents the Edge Hill catering team with a cheque for £2,260 raised from the sales of Abbey Well water

Each week in the UK, at least 12 young people die of undiagnosed heart conditions. Edge Hill is seeking to help reduce this figure by bringing a mobile medical test centre into the university each year to carry out free testing, in an attempt to raise awareness and identify young people at risk.

The screening, which would cost hundreds of pounds if done privately, can identify most cardiac abnormalities and it is painless, non-invasive and takes only a few minutes to complete.

Small stickers known as electrodes are placed on the client's chest and the wires connect to an Electrocardiogram (ECG) machine. This analyses the electrical activity of the heart and then provides a print-out for the cardiologist to evaluate.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
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We need public's help in fight against threat to our NHS

WE need help in our A&E departments.

There is a recruitment crisis with a severe shortage of doctors and waiting times are the longest in over 10 years.

Waiting times from GP referral to treatment for cancer and ambulance response times for the most serious calls are getting longer and targets haven't been met for over two years.

We need help to discharge patients - the number of patients waiting in hospital for a care package or nursing home is 70% higher than five years ago.

Meanwhile, the health secretary Jeremy Hunt and his organ-grinder Cameron are busy in the media trying to persuade the public that doctors are lazy, greedy, overpaid and misled, instead of working with doctors and front-line staff to tackle some of these serious problems.

His proposed new contract will drive many doctors overseas and worsen the A&E crisis at a time when we have the lowest number of doctors of any country in Europe.

It will not improve weekend mortality - no evidence shows that junior doctor staffing is responsible.

Doctors already work weekends and nights and you will meet one of my colleagues if you have a medical emergency at any hour of any day, including Christmas at 3am.

The contract discriminates against women such as my wife by refusing her a pay rise because she looks after our young children two days a week and other peoples' sick children the other five. Under the new contract, the penalties for overworking doctors are removed.

A doctor can work until 2am and then be back at work the next day.

Most of all, this contract is part of a plan to run down the NHS so the Tories can privatise it.

Your NHS is under threat from this government and your doctors and nurses need your support.

Our fight is your fight.

Dr Alex Stockdale, medical registrar

We know young have to let off steam but we shouldn't have to put up with yobs knocking on our door at 2am

I ALWAYS read the Letters page in the Champion and have read so many letters about the students and looked at both sides of the argument.

We understand that we were all young once and need to let off steam from time to time.

We live on St Helens Road, Ormskirk and are quite used to the passing noise we encounter most nights from people going to and from the university.

Last night was perhaps the last straw.

We were awoken by louder than usual shouting and chanting from male voices and then our security lights came on and someone was banging on the front door.

Students' letters have said we should be tolerant of our student neighbours and how they bring wealth to our community.

Can someone please tell me why we should put up with people purposely coming up our drive then banging on the front door at 2am?

Is this not trespass?

We could have telephoned the police but by the time they would have arrived these reprobates would have disappeared and we would have wasted valuable police time.

Has anyone else in the community encountered similar problems in the last few months?

Rosemary Ivory, by email

'Forgotten' Skem? Not compared to our village...the nearest bus stop is two miles away!

WITH regards to the letter by Eric Daish (Champion, April 27) no, Skelmersdale is not a forgotten town in relation to its bus service.

I live in Shirdley Hill and we now have NO public transport at all since Arriva decided to divert the 300 Liverpool/Southport away from the village.

It was a half-hourly service which used to finish around 8pm and it gave me access to the doctor, dentist, hospital, supermarket, the shops at Kew roundabout and Lime Street station.

Now the nearest bus stop is two miles away in Halsall accessed by a road which is unlit in places and has no pavement in stretches.

So, you are not hard done by in Skelmersdale.

Hazel Anderton, Shirdley Hill

The last thing this town needs is more HMOs

I CAN'T believe the suggestion by Maurice George to house students in Ormskirk police station (Letters, April 27).

Does he walk round the town with his eyes closed? Can he not see how many properties are already HMOs?

That fine building The Elms, a stone's throw away from the police station, has already been sacrificed for student accommodation thanks to our planning department and McComb holdings.

The last thing this town needs is more HMOs.

Champion reader, name & address supplied

Thanks, folks, for your support at polls

WE are writing to thank the residents of the three Ormskirk wards who supported us at last week's local elections.

We polled more than 1,600 votes, won one seat and also out-polled one of the big two parties.

On the doorstep we found that more and more people wanted a change from the stale two-party bickering in West Lancashire.

Local government is about providing good-quality local services with value for money and having responsive local councillors who will represent residents first and foremost. We will continue to pursue this vision and to campaign and work with community-minded local people for the betterment of our borough.

Councillor Adrian Owens, Jane Thompson, Peter Banks, Our West Lancashire

PICTURE of the week

Signs of summer... the golden glow of rapeseed in the fields of West Lancashire reflected the weekend's sunny weather. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest, why not drop us a line at the Champion?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details for the purpose of verification, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents not wishing to have their name published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the addresses listed at the top of this page.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

TTIP agreement is best reason to get out of EU

THE British people and the people of Europe owe a huge debt of gratitude to the environmental campaigning group Greenpeace for blowing the whistle on the secret trade negotiations (TTIP) between the United States and the EU.

Amongst other things the trade deal would allow US companies to sell controversial genetically modified food throughout Europe. These products have been banned in Europe for more than a decade because of potential health fears.

The documents show that US corporations will be granted unprecedented powers over any new public health or safety regulations to be introduced in future. If any European government dares to bring in laws to raise social or environmental standards, TTIP will grant US investors the right to sue for loss of profits in their own corporate court system that is unavailable to domestic firms, governments or anyone else.

The EU, rather than being a vehicle to protect workers' rights, with the introduction of TTIP will be used to destroy workers' rights. And our most precious institution, the National Health Service, will be privatised and destroyed.

This is the very wording: 'The parties acknowledge that anti-competitive business practices and state interventions have the potential to distort the proper functioning of markets and undermine the benefits of trade liberalization.'

Was there ever a better reason to get out of the EU than this?

Mark Holt, by email

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Lavitta competition winners

THE winners of the Champion's Lavitta competition were Mrs Rose McGibbon from Maghull and J. Campbell of Blundellsands.

They each received a £100 Lavitta voucher to spend in the company's new store in Lord Street, Southport.

Library to host family history taster session

LANCASHIRE Adult Learning will be holding a family history taster session at Burscough library on Tuesday, May 17 from 10am to noon.

During the session there will be an opportunity to learn how to start compiling a family history and tracing your ancestors.

Although aimed primarily at beginners, it might also benefit those with a little experience. There will be tips on how to start your research and how to use birth, marriage and death certificates and also the National Census to progress in tracing your family tree.

Places are limited and booking is essential. This can be done by visiting the library in Mill Lane; by email on burscough.library@lancashire.gov.uk; or by ringing the contact centre on 03001236703.

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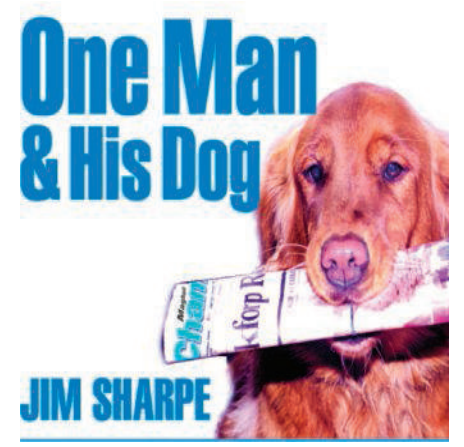


...more a case of 'one lucky man and his two dogs' after health scare

IN case you are not aware I had a bit of a health scare a couple of weeks ago - hence no 'One Man and His Dog' in last week's Champion.

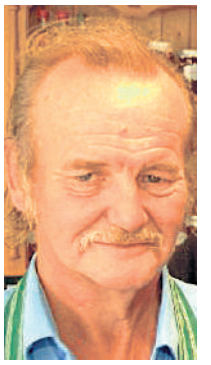
So this week's offering is more 'one lucky man and his two dogs!'

In fact, Tina and Cinders (my two shelties) helped saved my life.

I was out walking as usual in the evening when I collapsed on a field path having suffered a heart attack.

I lay where I lay for an unknown time before I was found by a couple of passers-by who called an ambulance and the police.

When I was found both Tina and Cinders were still by my side, keeping me warm. I was taken to Aintree Hospital and was very poorly for several days in the Critical Care unit but recovered sufficiently to be transferred to the Coronary Care ward at the hospital from where I am writing this piece.



Jim Sharpe

Hopefully, the doctors and nurses here can put me right - trouble is it's going to be a while.

Anyway, I apologise for the lack of a 'Dog' column last week though I think that my excuse is one of the best - or worst! But my sincere thanks must go to the people who found me, the police and the ambulance service - I'm afraid I'm yet to find out any of their names.

And thanks too to the nurses on the Critical Care unit who have made my life so much better!

I'm sorry that this 'Dog' is shorter than usual and I can't promise a regular return for the column, just yet, but I will try my best.

Anyway, my thanks also to all the readers who regularly read my column - I will try to get normal service resumed as soon as possible.

● *Editor's footnote:*

"We are all delighted to see Jim on the mend again after giving us such a huge scare.

We've received many messages of support for Jim and lots of people have been asking after him and wishing him well.

Jim is now recovering at home with Tina and Cinders (below).

Local issues overshadowed at polls by EU referendum, says Tory leader

THE leader of the Conservative group on West Lancs Borough Council believes national issues, such as the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, overshadowed more local topics during the recent local elections.

A statement issued by the group said the Conservatives fought the borough election on important local issues.

It welcomed the successful election of four new, first-time Tory candidates but regretted the defeat of former mayor, Doreen Stephenson who narrowly failed to get re-elected in Halsall ward.

Conservative leader, Councillor David Weetley, said: "I was pleased that we won in five of the six Conservative wards being defended and consider the high quality of our four new councillors will greatly strengthen the effectiveness of the group in holding the Labour administration to account.

"I have to concede that our election strategy of fighting on a detailed manifesto and highlighting Labour's council tax rise, cuts in services and unnecessary borrowings, together with their lurch to the left, was overshadowed by national issues such as the EU referendum."

Grunshaw returned as police commissioner

CLIVE Grunshaw will serve a second term as Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire after winning the election with an increased majority.

Residents went to the polls across the county on Thursday, May 5 and turnout was 29 per cent.

No candidate secured more than 50 per cent of the first choice votes under the supplementary vote system, meaning the top two candidates went through to the second round.

After second preference votes were counted, Mr Grunshaw secured 152,714 votes compared to 118,941 for the second-placed candidate, Conservative Andy Pratt.

Following the count, Mr Grunshaw thanked voters, adding: "I am really humbled and proud to be able to serve a second term and work with our constabulary and the community to help keep Lancashire safe.

"The message is loud and clear – the public want us to maintain our local policing teams and want a commissioner who will stand up to this government and their ideological cuts.

"I am proud to be able to do that again and be the voice of people in Lancashire."

Lancashire's newly re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Which? Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Southport, Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton & Bootle areas and manager Louis Richards agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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Volunteers wanted for heart charity shop

THE Ormskirk branch of a national charity shop chain is seeking volunteers to help in the fight against the UK's deadliest disease.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) shop in Burscough Street is in desperate need of 'Heart Heroes' willing to volunteer and spare any hours they can each week.

Volunteering with the BHF, even for just half a day, could play a vital role in helping the charity to fund one of their scientists to carry out lifesaving research for an hour.

Report by **Henry James**

The BHF currently provides the salaries for around 500 post-doctoral scientists who work in research teams right across the UK on projects which help experts better understand how to diagnose, prevent, treat and cure heart disease.

And volunteering can also help those seeking permanent paid employment as a useful addition to their CV.

Partnership

Working at the shop gives volunteers the opportunity to learn new skills, gain full training and also have a guaranteed interview for any paid position that becomes available within the shop.

The BHF has volunteers from a range of ages and backgrounds and it is a way to make friends and become part of a team.

BHF Retail has also launched a partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme making them an approved activity provider. This means that young people can now use their time volunteering in high street shops to work towards their bronze, silver or gold DofE award - another welcome addition to a CV.

Lisa Clark, BHF Retail's area manager for Ormskirk, said: "Volunteers are absolutely essential to the success of the charity, and play a vital part in fighting coronary heart disease, the UK's single biggest killer. We appreciate every minute people can spare and to show how grateful we are, we also hope to give something back.

"Our volunteers can not only use and develop the skills they already have, but can also keep their foot on the career ladder, work towards qualifications and gain some excellent experience."

Ormskirk's BHF shop offers a variety of roles from merchandising clothes, shoes and accessories, to window dressing and working the till.

To find out more about volunteering at the BHF shop in Ormskirk telephone 01695 578976 for a chat with shop manager Cindy.

John Bowyer, Anna Pomfret, Andy Durney, John Errington, Steve Kirrelly and Michael Clayton-Brown pictured at the Japan Karate Assocation headquarters

Local karate aces enjoy training trip to martial art's spiritual home

A PARTY of martial arts enthusiasts from West Lancashire have enjoyed a week-long training trip at the headquarters of the Japan Karate Association.

The group - John Bowyer, Anna Pomfret, Andy Durney, John Errington, Steve Kirrelly, Michael Clayton-Brown and Mike Thompson - are all members of the Ormskirk Shotokan Karate Club.

Dubbing themselves The Ormskirk Seven, they took time out to visit the shrine of the 47 Ronin, an 18th century historic event and legend about a band of Samurai warriors who avenged their master.

They also visited Mount Fuji before commencing a gruelling four-day training course on basics kata and kumite, and seminars on judging in competitions.

John Errington, who helped to organise the trip, said: "We also had the unique experience of travelling from Tokyo to the ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto, on the famous bullet train. And while in Kyoto we visited many shrines and temples, including the Imperial Palace."

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Hospital opens Quiet Room - with a little help from their Friends!

A QUIET Room has opened at Ormskirk Hospital to allow doctors and cancer patients to talk in confidence.

The new space, in the treatment centre, offers a tranquil area to discuss personal health matters.

The hospital has a busy lung cancer clinic and patients said it lacked an area for private discussions.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust acted on this feedback - with a little help from the hospital's League of Friends which donated £300 to the new room.

Janet Thompson, lung cancer specialist nurse, said: "This new quiet room will make such a big difference. It is really important for patients to have a room set apart from the clinic to discuss important health matters.

"People who have cancer are living longer if their cancer is diagnosed early. Early diagnosis saves lives. If you have any concerns about your health do not put off seeing your GP."

And treatment centre sister Kate Sutcliffe, added: "Without the League of Friends we wouldn't have been able to have done this, we are really grateful for their support."

The League of Friends has supported Ormskirk Hospital for more than half a century.

Staff and patients pictured in the new quiet room at Ormskirk Hospital

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We are the champions! The team from St Anne's Catholic Primary School celebrate their victory in the Ormskirk, Burscough and Tarleton Sportshall Athletics event

Pupils enjoy taste of competitive sport

YEARS 3 and 4 pupils from 11 primary schools across the Ormskirk, Burscough and Tarleton area enjoyed a taste of competitive sports when they took part in a Sportshall Athletics event organised by the West Lancashire School Sport Partnership.

Sportshall is an exciting indoor programme of adapted athletics activities for school age youngsters which provides fun ways to build core skills.

The West Lancs event was held at St Bede's Catholic High School in Ormskirk and pupils from St Bede's and Ormskirk High assisted with the organisation, impressing the primary school staff with their leadership skills.

The winners were St Anne's Catholic Primary with Aughton Town finishing second and Ormskirk third.

Angela Ma from the West Lancashire School Sports Partnership said: "It was a fantastic event with many parents turning up to St Bede's to support their children and schools."

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Bid to boost county's culture tourism

Alex Saint, director of Creative Tourist

Report by **Henry James**

MARKETING Lancashire, which was established in 2012 with the aim of growing the county's visitor economy, has appointed a new company, Creative Tourist, to help develop it as a year-round cultural destination.

The development of cultural tourism is one of the key ambitions expressed in the county's new Visitor Economy Strategy, which aims to increase annual visitors from 63million to 70 million by 2020.

Creative Tourist has a proven track record across tourism, cultural and digital sectors, helping destinations position themselves as places that cultural tourists actively want to visit.

The company has worked around the UK in places as diverse as Blackpool, Cumbria, London, Bath, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Torbay and Cheltenham on a range of strategic and tactical projects exclusively to develop cultural tourism.

Chief executive of Marketing Lancashire, Ruth Connor, said: "As a county we need to better understand and communicate the strengths of the destination in order to attract more culture-seekers to Lancashire.

APPEALING

"The county has an incredible range of accommodation as well as a food & drink offer that is second to none. Combine these with some of the successful performances, exhibitions and events already taking place in the county and you have a very appealing proposition for the culture-savvy visitor.

"Creative Tourist has the specialist knowledge that will help us define our unique place in England's cultural landscape and develop the tools to communicate the Lancashire cultural narrative to new audiences both in this country and internationally."

Director of Creative Tourist, Alex Saint, added: "As many Lancastrians already know, the cultural offer in the county is as distinctive and diverse as its landscape, running from Pennines to coast via urban centres, historic waterways and stunning forestry.

"Our job is to tap into the creative imagination already at play, help connect different parts of the cultural and tourism offer and then magnify it, so that more tourist visitors from outside the county are aware of just how much there is here to be enjoyed and celebrated.

"It is a pleasure to be working alongside Marketing Lancashire and the Lancashire Arts Partnership to support the growth of cultural tourism in Lancashire."

Marketing Lancashire has developed a Cultural Tourism Project Steering Group which will lead on the strategic direction of the project, which has been funded through the award of £50K from the Arts Council England Lottery Funded Grants For the Arts programme.

Borough events lined up to mark Mental Health Awareness Week

MEMBERS of Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's community restart team are organising in West Lancashire to mark National Mental Health Awareness Week which runs from Monday, May 16 to Sunday, May 22, and inviting the public to join in the activities.

The community restart team works with individual service users to provide support according to their requirements. This can include things such as employment, finances, housing and social inclusion.

The team has partnerships with several external organisations to provide service users with the most relevant and up-to-date support which helps with their recovery and overall wellbeing.

For Mental Health Awareness Week the team, together with some of its partners, has organised a range of events to raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma.

In West Lancs the team is holding a community event on Monday, May 16 between 11am and 1pm at Southway, Skelmersdale to raise awareness of mental health services available, both from the trust and third sector organisations.

And on Thursday, May 19 from 11am to 2pm, they are holding a mini Peerfest at Quarry Bank Community House, Skelmersdale, bringing together peer support groups from across the area that people can link up with.

This is based on the national Peerfest which the trust hosted in partnership with Mind last year but on a smaller scale to focus specifically on support in the West Lancs area.

There is also a cycle morning to raise awareness about mental health on Thursday, May 19, meeting at Quarry Bank at 10.30am.

Hanifa Usman-Tailor, community development officer and one of the organisers, said: "This is a great opportunity to get people talking about mental health; whether they are living with mental health problems themselves, or someone is concerned about a loved one."

The full programme of events can be found onine at www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/mental-health-awareness-week-2016.

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Mental Health Awareness Week runs from May 16 to 22

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Booths to host charity food and wine event

BOOTHS supermarket in Burscough is set to host a wine and food matching event with proceeds going to a West Lancashire children's charity.

The event will be held in the café at the store on the Ringtail Retail Park on Thursday, May 19 from 7 to 9pm.

Numbers will be limited to just 70 and tickets, priced £2, are available on a strictly first come-first served basis from the customer service kiosks at the supermarket.

All proceeds from the evening will be donated to Rainbow House at Mawdesley which supports children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

Led by a team from the licensed, counter and deli departments, customers will be treated to a prosecco reception, followed by an introduction to a selection of wine and food pairings from Manchego cheese to smoked salmon and vanilla ice cream.

Booths' specialist manager, Tim Clegg said: "Picking a great wine is one thing, but knowing how to take it to the next level with perfect flavour pairings can sometimes be a challenge.

"Our team of experts have selected some of our favourite Booths' wines for our customers to discover and matched them with some of our best regional produce, perfect for entertaining or al fresco dining and we are looking forward to sharing the know-how with our guests.

"Our customers love learning more about food and wine and we thought raising money for Rainbow House at the same time made perfect sense."

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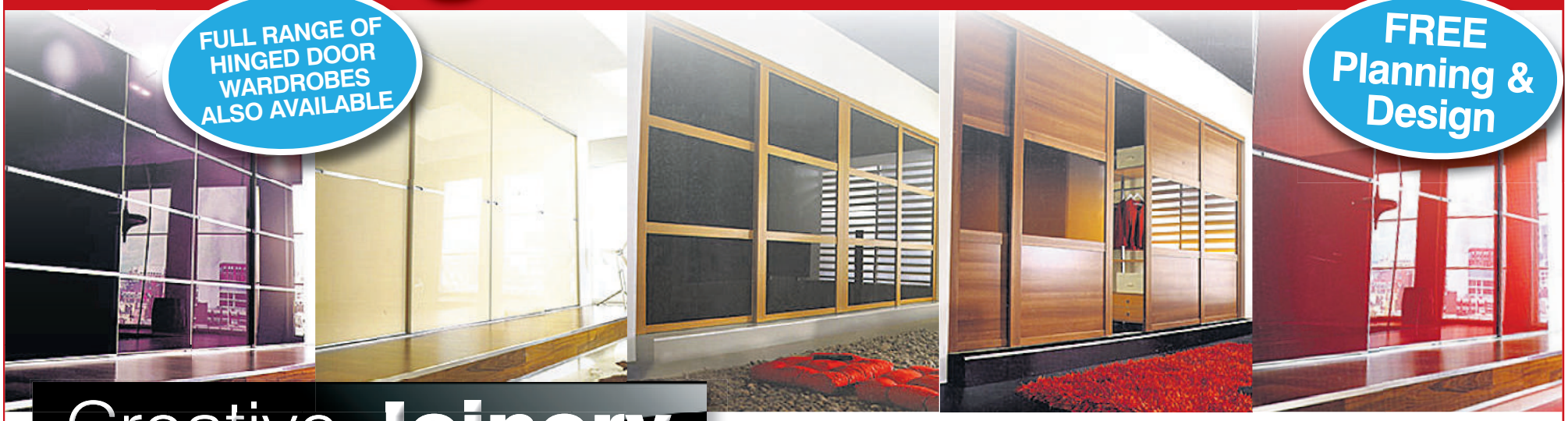

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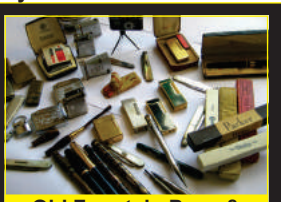

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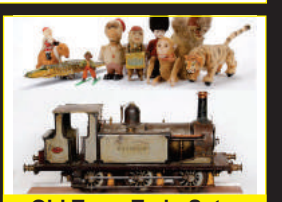

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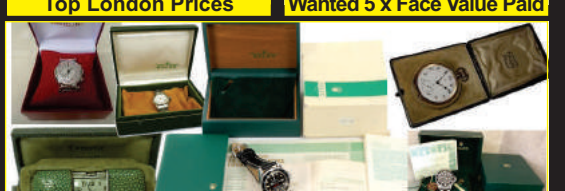

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Martin Mere news

The breeding season is in full swing at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre with 21 Greater flamingo eggs, 2 Eurasian crane eggs and 4 Black swan eggs in the grounds as well as plenty of ducklings hatching out in our duckling nursery.

Grounds Manager, Steve Nasir, said: "We are going to have lots and lots of chicks, cygnets and ducklings right in time for our award winning Downy Duckling week starting on 28 May. Families can come along and see ducklings develop inside eggs, hatching eggs and new born ducklings in our nursery – it is a great event and one all staff and volunteers look forward to."

But how does a duckling develop inside an egg? It takes 24 hours for a duck to lay just one egg and they will often lay a large number of eggs before then sitting on them and incubating at a temperature of 37.50C. By shining a strong beam of light onto the eggs (a technique known as candling) it is possible to tell whether they are fertile & healthy. Incubation periods vary between 20 and 42 days depending upon the species – our Greater flamingos for example will incubate their eggs for 30 days and the Black swan with incubate their eggs for 35 days, with smaller ducks taking just 25 days.

On average it takes 16 to 18 hours for a duckling to hatch but it can take as long as 48 hours. They use a special egg tooth on the top of their bill to break the shell around the top and they are extremely tired at the end of it. The duckling can't go in water when they hatch as they are not waterproof, they have to develop a preen gland to ensure their down becomes waterproof and after a few days they will be fine to get their feet wet on a small pond.

By the age of 8 weeks the ducklings are fully grown.

In other news at the centre, the reserve has 3 oystercatcher chicks as well as a good variety of warblers such as Garden warbler, willow warbler and grasshopper warblers, plus a little egret and summer plumaged Mediterranean gulls.

Steve continues: "Spring is a great time of year to visit the centre, there is so much new life and with all of the wildflowers starting to grow and the butterflies fluttering around, this is one of my favourite seasons."

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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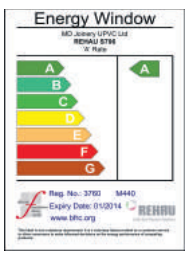

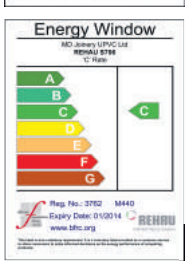

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‘Mystery’ substance sparks fears over field next to school

CONCERNED residents have expressed fears about an unidentified white substance “oozing out of the ground” on a playing field next to a school in Ormskirk.

The Champion was contacted by neighbours worried about the substance which they say has been seen on the field in Grimshaw Lane, next to Ormskirk West End Primary School.

One of the residents, who asked to remain anonymous, said: “I was told by another dog walker that when it rains, a white substance oozes out of the ground.

“I have heard that during World War Two, waste was buried there and we are concerned that the substance could be toxic or dangerous. The field is very close to the school.”

West Lancs Council officers have visited the site but couldn’t find any white substances. They are urging residents who have any fears to contact their Environmental Protection team.

Residents say they have seen a white substance oozing from the ground in this field

A council spokesperson said: “The council hasn’t received any other reports of this nature from this area of Ormskirk. We take residents’ concerns very seriously and we would ask that this person contacts the council’s environmental protection team on 01695 577177 to give us more details so we can investigate this further.”

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Shortlist announced for Edge Hill Short Story Prize 2016

Report by **Henry James**

ORGANISERS of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize 2016 have unveiled the shortlist for the annual award which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary.

The Edge Hill Prize is the only UK-based award that recognises excellence in a published short story collection.

This year has seen established names competing alongside relative newcomers for the £10,000 main prize, a £1,000 Readers' Prize and an additional category worth £500 acknowledging rising talents on the Ormskirk university's own MA creative writing course.

Ailsa Cox, the Edge Hill Prize founder and professor of short fiction at the university, said whittling the list of 38 talented entries down to six finalists was challenging.

"This year has seen some of the strongest submissions in the 10 years this award has been running. The 2016 Edge Hill Prize finalists will join what is a roll-call of world-class talent. The judges absolutely have their work cut out for them in choosing this year's winner from a list that includes prize-winning authors alongside rising talent."

Thrilled

Cathy Galvin, founder and director of The Word Factory, the UK's leading promoter of excellence in short fiction writing and co-host of the Edge Hill Prize celebration event, said she was thrilled to be on this year's judging panel.

"It's been wonderful to watch the most significant British prize for a collection of short stories going from strength to strength and an honour to be a judge for such a superb, diverse shortlist. This prize recognises great writing from emerging and established authors alike."

The Edge Hill Prize is awarded annually by the university for excellence in a published single author short story collection. The winner will be announced on Tuesday, July 5 at a special celebration co-hosted with The Word Factory in London.

Other judges include last year's winner, Kirsty Gunn and Edge Hill's creative writing lecturer, Billy Cowan.

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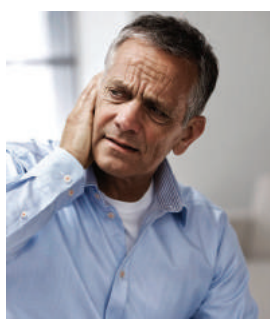

Impacted wax can also adversely affect the performance of hearing aids; in particular it can cause feedback or whistling, or cause the instrument to become faulty.

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The KGV medal winners Nathan Browne, Katie Dixon-Turner, Alex Gould, Jordan MacDonald, Max Noble, Alec Scott

National sporting success for college

STUDENTS from a college which is attended by many youngsters from West Lancashire competed in the Association of Colleges Sport National Finals at Northumbria University, winning one gold medal and three silver medals.

The students, from King George V College, Southport, achieved their place in the finals after succeeding against competition from other local colleges in a variety of different sporting tournaments, during the regional qualifiers at venues across the North West.

Laura Rummens, BTEC sport teacher at KGV, said: "Our students performed fantastically and once again showed that KGV is a dominating force within sport."

Jordan MacDonald, who competed in the 50m and 100m butterfly, the 50m medley relay and the 50m free relay, gained a gold individual medal and a silver team North West medal.

Nathan Browne, a sports leader at the college, competed in the cross country event and his combined effort with the rest of the North West team saw him walk away with a silver medal.

Alec Scott and Max Noble, who returned to the men's badminton doubles after achieving silver medals at last year's national finals, were hot favourites from the beginning of the competition and the pair continued to perform strongly throughout the weekend. They won a silver medal.

Other notable performances included Alex Gould who faced tough competition in his squash matches and came away with a very respectable fifth place position.

Katie Dixon-Turner and Rachel Newnham also performed outstandingly in the women's badminton doubles and went through to the quarter finals of the competition.

In September 2016, KGV will launch a new Sports Academy and will hope to carry on its sporting successes.

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New recruits wanted for police cadets

LANCASHIRE Police Cadets have launched a membership drive and are seeking to recruit youngsters aged between 13 and 18 who want to acquire new skills and work within their local communities.

There are currently 450 volunteer police cadets across nine units in the county, including West Lancashire, and the force is looking for a further 200 to join the cadet 'family'.

Sergeant Helen Nellany, the force's citizens in policing development officer, said: "The cadets give young people the opportunity to experience the full spectrum of policing within Lancashire, whilst carrying out fundraising challenges.

"They get involved in an array of projects aimed at breaking down barriers between the police, young people and the wider community.

Valuable

"Police cadets help and assist in the community by getting involved in a number of activities, including stewarding local events such as fairs, town shows and carnivals. They also help the local neighbourhood policing teams, carry out leaflet drops, crime prevention initiatives, community safety events and street surveys.

"And they benefit from learning valuable team skills and disciplines, with many opting to progress further and become a special constable or a regular police officer, whilst others utilise their experience when applying for jobs."

Recruitment is open to both boys and girls and interested applicants can apply online at www.lancashire.police.uk/cadets.

henry.james@champnews.com

Karate club going from strength to strength

ONE of the founding members of a West Lancs martial arts club which caters for all ages from six years upwards says it is going from strength to strength.

Instructor, Sensei Steve Lloyd was speaking after members of Parbold Karate Club enjoyed more success at their latest gradings at Robin Park, Wigan.

Sixty-year-old Steve, originally from Liverpool but resident in Skelmersdale and Newburgh for more than 40 years, achieved his 5th Dan.

At the other end of the scale, meanwhile, 14-year-old Matthew Stockley gained his first black belt.

Steve's first sporting love was boxing due to his family background. His late uncle, Jimmy Lloyd was an Olympic bronze medal winner and young Steve used to train with him at Skelmersdale ABC .

He first took up martial arts at the age of 16 in 1980, training in the Goju Ryu style under the guidance of Sensei Tony Bithell and gaining his first black belt seven years later.

His dream was to one day open his own school and he finally achieved that in 2003, establishing Parbold Karate Club at the village hall.

The club, which is affiliated with the British Karate Association, meets on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.30 to 8pm and new members are always welcome.

Matthew Stockley and Sensei Steve Lloyd following the grading at Robin Park

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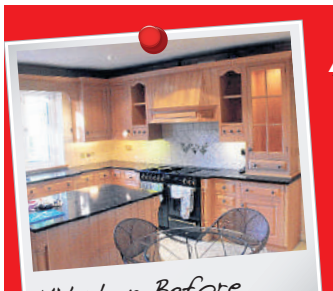

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The winning gymnasts from Ormskirk CE Primary School

Young gymnasts book place in Lancashire School Games finals

PUPILS from Ormskirk CE Primary School have secured a place at the largest youth sporting event in the county, the SPAR Lancashire School Games, after vaulting to success in a West Lancashire gymnastics competition.

The youngsters battled it out against three other schools from across West Lancashire in floor, vault and body management routines at Ormskirk High School.

They will now go on to represent the borough at the SPAR Lancashire School Games county finals where they will compete against teams from 14 other Lancashire districts to be named county champions in gymnastics.

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "The standard of gymnastics in this year's county finals qualifier was outstanding, with only a 0.9 point difference between the two top placed teams. It was a fantastic day of gymnastics showcasing the talent of some children across our West Lancashire district. I look forward to cheering our gymnasts on in Blackpool."

Now in its 10th year, the SPAR Lancashire School Games is designed to give all children the opportunity to participate in competitive sport.

Schools across Lancashire will bid for a place at the county finals to be crowned champions in sports including rounders, tennis, orienteering, netball, athletics and gymnastics.

More than 2,400 youngsters are expected to take part in the event at Stanley Park in Blackpool on July 5.

Aussie soap star set to appear in resort panto

Report by **Henry James**

AUSSIE soap star Lynne McGranger will be aiming to cast a spell over audiences at Southport Theatre this festive season when she takes up the role of the Wicked Queen in the venue's family pantomime, Snow White.

Sydney-born Lynne is known for her portrayal of Irene Roberts in the long-running Home And Away, a part she has played since 1993.

In 2014 she was also runner-up on the Australian version of Dancing with the Stars and used the show to raise awareness and much-needed funds for the Bears of Hope Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support charity.

This will be the third time Lynne has worked with producers Imagine Theatre, having previously appeared as the Fairy at the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe in 2008 and as the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella in Newark last year.

Lynne said: "I am delighted to be working with Imagine Theatre once again. I had a great time in both Crewe and Newark and made some wonderful friends.

"I love the Imagine style of pantomime as they focus heavily on the quality of the production with strong stories, alongside a lot of humour that appeals to all ages.

"The UK panto experience is always exciting - even though I'm working hard and doing two shows a day, it's also like a holiday.

Lynne McGranger

"I love being somewhere new, meeting people and making new friends. I am really excited that this year I will be getting to play one of the most iconic fairytale baddies - it's going to be great fun."

Steve Boden, managing director of Imagine Theatre, commented: "All of us at Imagine are delighted to be working with Lynne once again. Not only is she a brilliant performer, she is a wonderful person to have around and a joy to work with."

Snow White runs from Friday December 9 to Saturday, December 31. For more information call 0844 871 3021 or go to www.atgtickets.com/southport.

Team Phoebe's grand effort for health trust

POLICE officers from Sefton have donated £1,200 to Liverpool Community Health Trust after being inspired by a colleague's daughter.

The group of bobbies formed 'Team Phoebe' to support cystic fibrosis at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital after Martin Duddy's daughter, Phoebe, was born with the condition four years ago.

But since then, their registered charity 'Phoebe's Fund' has raised money for countless other good causes across Merseyside and last week they presented a cheque for £1,200 to nurses from Liverpool Community Health Trust.

The team raised the money by holding a charity race night at Crosby Comrades Club and it will be used to buy a morphine syringe pump for Macmillan nurses to administer pain relief to cancer patients being cared for at home or in hospices.

The charitable cause was chosen by Kelly Coulton, whose husband Steve, a serving Sefton police officer, died from cancer last year.

Kelly said: "I would like to thank everyone involved in the fundraising for the money to buy the syringe pump. The symptoms of bone cancer can vary greatly but include persistent bone pain that gets worse over time and continues into the night with swelling, redness and a noticeable lump.

"I want to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of bone cancer to young people, who might not think they can get it, because the earlier a cancer is picked up, the easier it is to treat it and treat successfully. It is important that people go their doctor as soon as possible if they notice worrying symptoms."

'Team Phoebe' have previously raised money for the stroke unit at Aintree University Hospital.

Syringe drivers are small, battery-operated portable pumps which deliver a steady flow of injected medication under the skin in a steady, reliable way to control pain.

Claire Johnston, community Macmillan nurse and Kirsten Collins, the district nurse who helped care for Steve towards the end of his life accepted the cheque from Phoebe's Fund on behalf of Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust. They said: "We are so grateful to Team Phoebe for raising this money. The syringe driver is a vital piece of equipment that will help improve the quality of life for our patients nearing the end of life."

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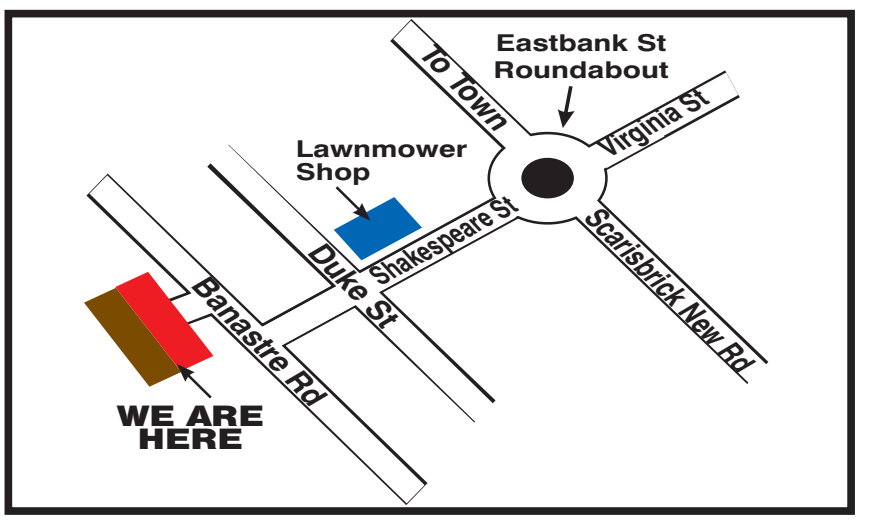

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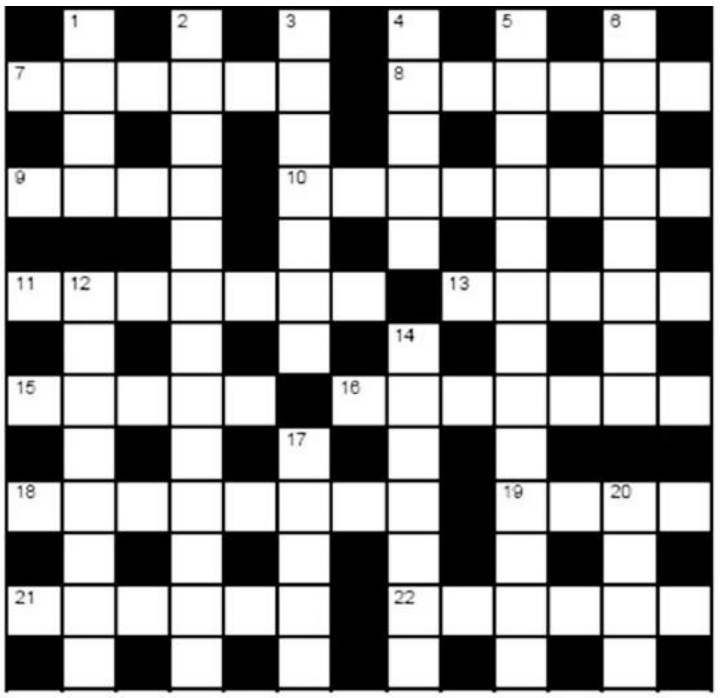

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Scrawl. 8 Unpaid. 9 Blob. 10 Showcase. 11 Stammer. 13 Offal. 15 Cocky. 17 Conceal. 20 Ideology. 21 Cede. 22 Agleam. 23 Unbind.

Down: 1 Sculpt. 2 Jamb. 3 Blister. 4 Buxom. 5 Specific. 6 Siesta. 12 Makeover. 14 Toby Jug. 16 Old age. 18 Ardent. 19 Roomy. 21 Cuba

ACROSS

7 Capital city of Niger (6)
8 Eloquent public speaker (6)
9 Consisting of two parts (4)
10 Happening every two years (8)
11 Inhabitant (7)
13 Irritate (5)
15 Sham attack (5)
16 Disgraceful action (7)
18 Moving surreptitiously (8)
19 Not difficult (4)
21 Exact retribution (6)
22 Not on the coast (6)

DOWN

1 Instead (4)
2 It's often used to decorate walls (8,5)
3 Child's term for sleep (3-4)
4 Gambling card game (5)
5 Long sewing implement used to repair holes in material (7,6)
6 Carbonated soft drink (4,4)
12 Term for an optional study course, particularly in the USA (8)
14 Synthetic fabric (7)
17 To scatter (something) untidily over a surface (5)
20 Become submerged (4)

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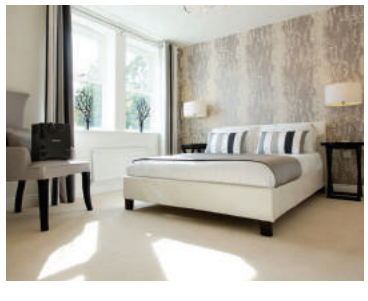

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University to host regional premiere of transgender film

EDGE Hill University will host the regional premiere screening of "ground-breaking" transgender film Deconstructing Zoe today (Wednesday, May 11).

The film follows transgender actor Zoe from boyhood in a small Malaysian town, to the West-end stage via the 'trans' scene of London. The film is an exploration of gender, race and sexuality, seen through Zoe's eyes.

The screening will include a question and answer session with Zoe, the subject of the film, as well as an in discussion session with the film's director Rosa Fong, senior lecturer in Film and Television in the Department of Media at Edge Hill University.

Deconstructing Zoe sees interviews interwoven with performances from Zoe's semi-autobiographical play An Occasional Orchid – the orchid being a common metaphor of the West's perception of Asian women being seen as exotic, beautiful and desirable.

Professor Roger Shannon, organiser of the screening and director of Edge Hill University's Institute for Creative Enterprise said: "Rosa Fong's documentary is not only a very timely filmic investigation into this topical subject of gender fluidity, bringing insights and greater awareness, but it is also a testament to the University's ability to keep its finger on the pulse of public discussion."

A shot from the film Deconstructing Zoe

The performance pieces echo the experience of transgendered people, who Zoe says often live a twilight existence.

The message of the film is that gender is not fixed or binary.

The film has been selected to play at the Seattle transgender film festival Translations in mid-May. Translations is a ground-breaking film festival that provides the Pacific Northwest with a venue for films by, for, and about transgender people and the issues facing the trans-gender community.

Deconstructing Zoe will air at Edge Hill University at Edge Hill University's Creative Edge. Bookings can be made by visiting www.edgehill.ac.uk/ice/

Craig and Charlie Reid

Proclaimers stopping off at resort's theatre

THE Proclaimers are to stop off at Southport Theatre this Saturday (May 14) at 7.30pm as part of their UK tour.

After releasing their acclaimed 10th studio album Let's Hear It For The Dogs in April 2015, The Proclaimers embarked on a mammoth 68 UK date tour which included 15 festivals (Glastonbury, T In The Park and Carfest amongst others) and 53 sold out theatres.

Ents 24, the UK's biggest live guide, announced The Proclaimers as the sixth biggest live music act in the UK in 2015.

The twin brothers famous songs are 500 Miles, Letter From America and Let's Get Married and they will be supported by Will Varley.

Strikingly individual, twin brothers Craig and Charlie Reid have over the years enjoyed success across the globe.

The Proclaimers have carved out a niche for themselves in the netherworld where pop, folk, new wave and punk collide. In the process they have enjoyed Gold and Platinum singles and albums in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Following on from the theatre success of the musical drama featuring songs by The Proclaimers, Sunshine On Leith, the movie version had its UK release in 2013 and was popular, opening at number three, and generating over £4.8 million at the UK Box office.

Sunshine On Leith, which stars Peter Mullen and Jane Horrocks, was number five in the highest grossing Independent UK films of 2013.

Rambling folk singer Will Varley famously walked over 500 miles along England's south coast with a guitar on his back, making him the perfect support act for The Proclaimers!

Group back due to public demand

POPULAR local band The Sandgrounders are back together again performing their tribute to the music of The Shadows and Cliff, and have dates around the local area throughout 2016.

Their next show takes place at the Fleetwood Hesketh Club, Fylde Road, Southport on Saturday, May 21 at 7.30pm.

This will be the second of four following a complete sell out at The Prince of Wales Hotel back in February.

The line up of the band consists of all the original members from back in the 1990s and 2000s.

As most people may be aware The Sandgrounders started performing way back in 1958 and have carried the flag for Southport ever since playing the music from the 50s, 60s and 70s, including this tribute show.

After careful consideration and recruiting the right personnel, this show has been put back together again due to public demand.

All the music on the night is live, warts and all.

For tickets to the concert, contact The Fleetwood Hesketh on 01704 227968 or 07754 905003.

Fun and surprises in show

A NEW Peppa Pig live stage show, Peppa Pig's Surprise, has just had its world premiere and is now touring the UK and Ireland and is coming to the Liverpool Empire between May 28– 29.

It's a lovely day and Peppa is playing outside with her friends. Mummy Pig and Daddy Pig have got a surprise for her and her younger brother George but no matter how hard they try, they cannot guess what it is.

In Peppa Pig's Surprise audiences will enjoy interactive fun, games and, of course, surprises.

This colourful new show features new songs and new life-size puppets.

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23 JUL • ALADDIN • LION KING
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SAT 14TH MAY
HELD AT: Base Dance, Unit 10, Malthouse Bus. Park
48 Southport Road, Ormskirk, L39 1QR (off street parking)
PRIVATE READINGS @ £15 PER READING
RAFFLE, AUCTION
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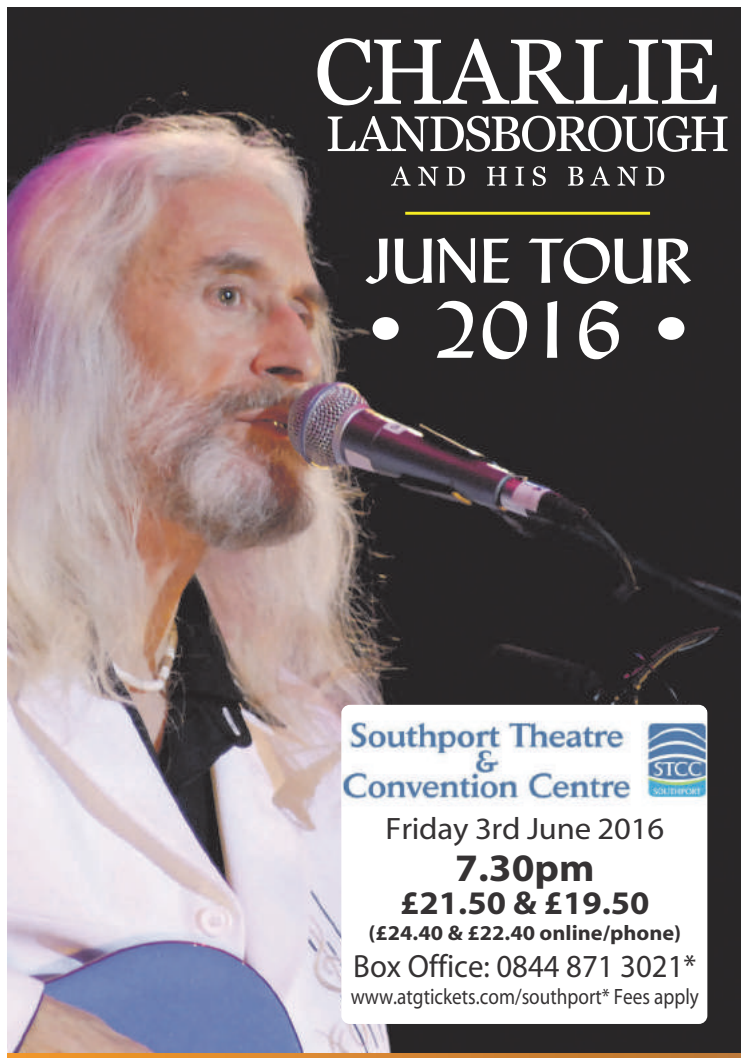

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SAT 18th
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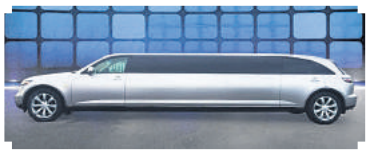

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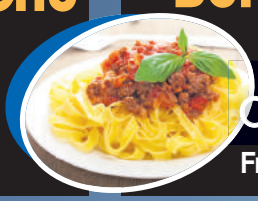

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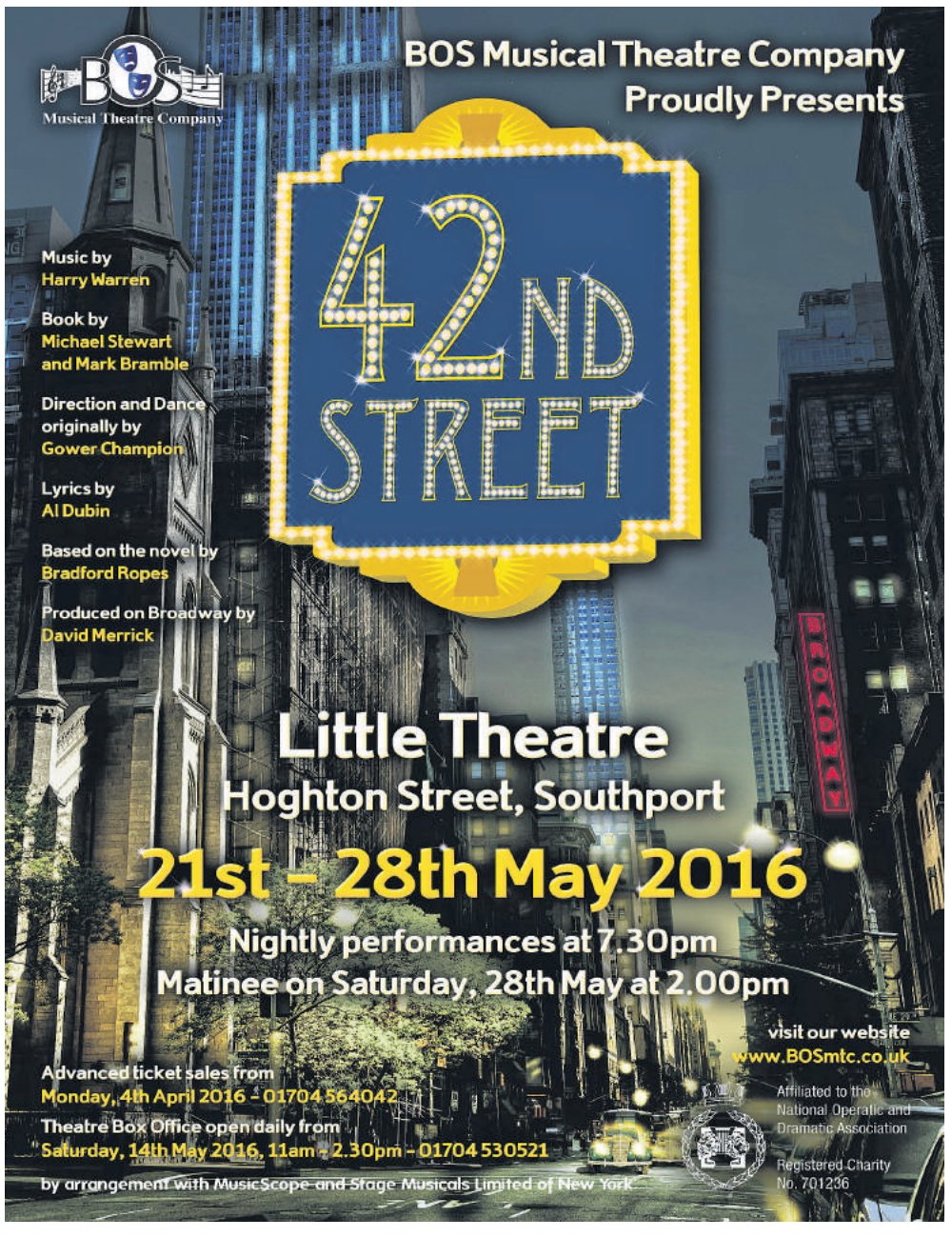
THEATRES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JIGSAW PUZZLES 12 jigsaws with 1000 pieces each puzzle. All great condition and boxed. Various designs. £20. 01704 821920

HOBBIES

CHESS GAME Board and pieces made of marble and stone from Mexico. 3 pieces have been repaired. Beautiful set £20 01704 821920

GIBSON JIGSAWS 1 box 2 jigsaws x 500 pieces, 2 boxes x 4 jigsaws x 500 pieces) - 1 piece missing. £10 07855222552

IN PHASE telescope with stand+lenses. Not used, unwanted gift. Reduced from £20 to £15 07821417560

BOOKS X7 Lesley Pearse paperbacks excellent reading £10.00 01704 875299

HIKING COMPASS Wrist watch style compass, black plastic strap, excellent condition £10 01704872019

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

KEYBOARD & STAND Fantastic for beginners, this 54key keyboard comes with manual/everything you need to get your child playing and enjoying music.Battery/mains £20 0151 5262992

CD/DVD PLAYER sony. £40, used three times only, has leads with it, must collect 07740161155

GOODMANS HD32"TV 32" hd ready digital lcd tv £25.00. slight defect on sound but goes alright after a few minutes.must collect. 07740161155

PHILIPS RADIO/CD//DIGITALMICRO philips radio/cd/digitalplayer/usb and dock for ipod/ipad.must collect.£40 07740161155

MARIO LANZA box set (6 LPs) entitled "Best of Mario Lanza". Ex con. Now reduced to £8 07821417560

SURROUND SOUND Logitech surround sound system in black, excellent condition selling due to downsizing. £50.00 01704875299

HOUSE AND HOME

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SMALLL ROUND DRAWER UNIT 5 drawers, oak. VGC. £30. 01695 624223.

BATHROOM CABINET and 3 other bathroom items. Also CD & DVD storage unit. £offers 0151 5271938

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CREAM LEATHER SOFA Large 2 seater and 2 armchairs. Excellent Condition. £250 o.n.o 07979 918918

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HOUSE AND HOME

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DINING TABLE Round, tilt-top, mahogany, French Polished, sits upto 6, 54" diameter, 28" high, central column on four scroll feet - £195 - Tel. 07986 674821

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GAS FIRE Small inset gas fire with glass front and black marble base and white marble sides £20 01704 628190

SLIMLINE DISHWASHER electrolux slim line dishwasher works well clean & tidy Southport t/c collection only £35.00 07850223399/01704544544

DIPLOMAT FREEZER Diplomat APM 6646 Integrated freezer works well clean & tidy southport t/c collection only new kitchen forces sale £35.00 07850223399 /01704544544

KINGSIZE HEADBOARD hardwood with padded velour front. Dark Apricot colour. £30.00 01695 422006

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TRUNDLE BED in dark pine finish with two mattress's in excellent condition make Marks and Spencer rarely used as kept as spare 01695422006

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HOUSE AND HOME

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BEECH TABLE Extending table and four chairs good condition. £100. 0744 3502446

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FRIDGE FREEZER Hoover fridge freezer, fridge works fine, freezer part just chills. £15.00 07980 162415

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HOUSE AND HOME

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HOUSE AND HOME

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MISC

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IN MEMORIAM

O'NEILL ANTHONY
13th May 2011

Five years have gone by. We love and miss you every day. You are always in our hearts and in our thoughts. Love you always, from your loving Mum, Daughter, Family & Grandson.
Rest In Peace
xxx

DORAN SHEILA
9th May 2010

The tears we cry, can be wiped away, but the pain in our hearts, will always stay.

Missed every day.

Your Bill, Stephen, Jane, Jema and Ella.

Loved Always.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VERNON GEORGE

Marion,Christine and family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind donations for Cancer research and their funeral attendance. Many thanks to Dr Statham and the district nurses for their care and support during dads ilness and recent sad loss,also Cookson Tyrer for their dignified funeral arrangements.

STANLEY WILLIAM JOHN (BILL)

Brenda and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, for cards and donations received during our sad loss of Bill.
A special thank you to Dr Bisarya, our District Nurses and Stocks Carers for their kindness and care during Bill's illness, Rev'd Cuthbert Jackson for his kind ministrations and Skelmersdale Funeral Service for their dignified funeral arrangements.

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DEATHS

FANNING ARTHUR

Our beloved Dad & Friend. Devoted Husband to Mary, Special Grandad & Great-Grandad. Passed away peacefully at home on 4th May 2016 aged 80 years. A true gent with a heart of gold. He will be greatly missed by all his family & friends. Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 13th May at 10:45am. Flowers or donations if so desired to British Heart Foundation. All who knew him are welcome at the service. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk Tel: 01695 572997

LALLY ANN

5th May 2016

Suddenly at home aged 59 years

Beloved Wife of Ian, much loved Mum of Robert, Jackie & Jamie. Loving Nan of Charley, Alfie, Michael, Holly, Jasmine, Poppy, Leon & Evie May. Always in our hearts. All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

MOORE BRIAN

May 1st 2016
Aged 86.

After a long illness.

Devoted Husband to Connie. Dear Dad to David and Lynda. Father in law to Vivienne and John. Proud Grandad to Richard, Paul, Lisa and Amanda. Also Great Grandad to Robyn, Rayne, Frankie and Noah. Brother to Michael. Service at Southport Crematorium Friday 13th May at 10.40am. Family flowers only but if desired donations to Alzheimer's Research UK. Donations and enquiries to Broadbent & Seddon, 33 Liverpool Rd, Birkdale PR8 4AG. Tel 01704 550055.

COSGROVE MARCIA Nee FLETCHER

4th May 2016
Peacefully in hospital aged 67 years.

Loving Wife of Jimmy, devoted Mum of Sandra, Linda and Christopher, dear Mother in law of Mark and Sharon, cherished Grandma of all her grandchildren and a much loved Daughter and Sister. Will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 11th May at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Cancer Research. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

MOORE JAN (JANICE IRENE)

1st May 2016
Aged 59 years

Loving mother to Janine and Jessica, partner of Robert, sister to Pamela, Cheryl, David and Jean. Jan will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 16th May at 10:40am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

HALSALL GERARD PHILIP

4th May 2016
Peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice aged 70 years of Scarisbrick

Devoted Husband and Best friend of Celia. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Mass and Interment at St. Elizabeth's Church, Scarisbrick on Thursday 12th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors of Scarisbrick, Ormskirk & Skelmersdale Tel: 01704 892191 or 01695 722122

GIBBONS JOHN

3rd May 2016
Aged 90 years

Will be greatly missed by Sheila and all that knew John. Funeral Service to take place at Ormskirk Parish Church followed by Interment in Churchyard on Wednesday 11th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice. Further enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk, L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

HOGAN DESMOND

29th April 2016
Aged 68 years

A fun and loving Father of Conan, Simon and Fiona. A dear Father in law and cherished Grandad to all his grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St John the Evangelist Church, Chapel lane, Burscough L40 7RA on Friday 13th May at 2.30pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

DRAPER RUTH MARY

6th May 2016
Aged 71 Years

Loving Mother to Sharron Ruth, cherished daughter of Daisy. Ruth will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Salvation Army Citadel, Southport on Thursday 12th May at 11:00am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

PORTER SIDNEY

6th May 2016
Peacefully in hospital aged 83 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Dad of Susan, Karen, Brian and Debbie, a dear Father-in-law and devoted Grandad to all his Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Friday 13th May 2016 at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research. All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funereal Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick Tel: 01695 722122/720012

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RICS

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of Application for a new Premises Licence

Warbreck Garden Centre of Lyelake Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk have applied to West Lancashire Borough Council for a new premises licence. The following has been applied for: Hours of operation 09:00 - 01:30 and to include the following licensable activities: On / Off licence supply of alcohol, occasional late night refreshment and live / recorded music.
The application may be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can be also obtained from the Councils website http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/business/licensing.aspx
Any 'interested Party' may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before the 23rd May 2016. It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and on summary conviction anyone doing so is liable to a fine of £5,000.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BROADHURST LANE, WRIGHTINGTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington from a point adjacent to property number 7 for a distance of 120 metres heading in a southerly direction, in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 16th May 2016 until 1600 hours on Friday 20th May 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Broadhurst Lane – B5250 Mossy Lea Road – Broadhurst Lane and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow culvert repair works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/2132/TR]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LEGAL NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/0401/COU Change of use from a care home to a hot food takeaway with ancillary accommodation and 2 no. 1 and 2 bed flats at first floor level at 110 - 116 Firbeck, Birch Green, Skelmersdale.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0340/FUL Demolition of existing buildings at 22, 22b and 22c and 24 and 24b Church Street and the erection of a replacement building comprising A1/A2/A3/B1 units to ground level and student dwellings above (being part amendment to planning approval 2014/0566/FUL) at 22 Church Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/0437/LBC Listed Building Consent - Removal of concrete and brick panels from timber framed Great Hall compass bay, north wall and ground floor of adjacent cross wing. To be replaced with traditional materials to allow flexibility in the frame at National Trust, Rufford Old Hall, 200 Liverpool Road, Rufford.
Application No: 2016/0445/COU Conversion of flat over shop to 5 bedroom student HMO at 11A Burscough Street, Ormskirk.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration — Dated: 11th May 2016 PDNOT897

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a network of unnamed highways including footpaths as leads off Firbeck and to the west of Houghton's Lane and two southern part-widths of Firbeck at Birch Green, Skelmersdale, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development as permitted by West Lancashire Borough Council, under reference 2015/0012/WL3.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at West Lancashire Borough Council, Housing & Regeneration, 61 Westgate, Sandy Lane Centre, Skelmersdale WN8 8LP in the 28 days commencing on 11 May 2016, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below (quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/2279).

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **8 June 2016**. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.

G Patrick, Casework Manager

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(TABBYS NOOK, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Tabby's Nook, Newburgh from its junction with Cobbs Brow Lane to the rear of 15 Clovelly Drive, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

2. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Monday 23rd May 2016 until 1700 hours on Monday 6th June 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- A5209 Course Lane - Cobbs Brow Lane - Tabby's Nook and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to provide a safe environment for the completion of utility works.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/2235/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 17 (PART) AND A NON DEFINITIVE ROUTE TO WHICH THE PUBLIC HAVE ACCESS, SIMONSWOOD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which is to prohibit temporarily any traffic from proceeding over that length of Public Footpath 17 and a non-definitive route to which the public have access in Simonswood, Borough of West Lancashire, indicated below:-

Part of FP17 Simonswood, West Lancashire commencing from its junction with Outlet Lane and FP18 Simonswood, West Lancashire at Point A (GR SD 4169 0257) and running in a generally north westerly direction for a distance of approximately 20 metres to Point B (GR SD 4168 0259) off Outlet Lane, Simonswood, West Lancashire.

A short section of a non-definitive route to which the public have access in Simonswood West Lancashire commencing from its junction with Outlet Lane, Simonswood, West Lancashire at Point C (GR SD 4155 0244) and running in a generally north westerly direction for a distance of approximately 20 metres to Point D (GR SD 4153 0245).

The closure is necessary due to works proposed to be and being executed on or near the routes, said works being the laying of a new pipeline.

Access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the routes, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from, the routes, will be maintained at all times.

Nothing in the order shall apply to emergency service vehicles.

The Order will be operative from the 23rd May, 2016, for a period of 6 months or until the works are completed within this period.

IAN YOUNG, Director of Governance, Finance & Public Services
Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, PRESTON, PR1 8XJ

NOT PART OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE
The plan on site shows the route to be closed as A-B & C-D. Lancashire County Council is informed that there is no alternative route available. Please contact the Rights of Way Team on 01772 533722 if necessary.

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A woman's car is perfect in pink according to motoring boffins!

Pretty in pink is the way forward for the new DS 3 - but what will feminists think about the latest addition to the Citroen range?...

The DS 3 Givenchy Le Make Up is a tie-up with French fashion brand Givenchy

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

THE perfect car for women should have a pink dashboard, a cosmetics kit and LED lighting that makes it easier to apply.

Before you fire up your keyboards and prepare your email to The Champion's editor that's not me being sexist for the sake of an intro. That's the genuine specification of a three-door hatchback you'll be able to order in a couple of week's time.

I haven't been on enough political correctness courses to work out whether or not the DS 3 Givenchy Le MakeUp is patronising to the opposite sex or just brilliant brand placement. Girly cars with pink upholstery are nothing new (take a bow, Fiat 500), and nor is marketing your upmarket bit of motoring with a fashionable label (the Range Rover Vogue, for all its blokey off-road credentials, was originally named after the fashion magazine). But blending the two is genuinely brave stuff.

The encouraging news is the basic package is genuinely good stuff. I've driven several DS3s – admittedly when they were badged as Citroëns rather than a posh French brand in their own right – and all had an enticing blend of consummate handling, plucky engines and energetic, youthful styling. It's exactly the sort of fun-filled family car I'll hop into for a cheeky B-road blast.

But – and here's the rub – I can't help feel sorry for the bloke whose car breaks down one Monday morning, with no public transport to hand. The only way of getting to the office on time is to borrow the other half's DS 3 Givenchy Le MakeUp, and all his mates are going to see him driving it. It's a car named in honour of make up, for heaven's sake. Our poor friend – who might as well walk to work wearing a short skirt for the same effect - is going to feel like an utter berk driving it.

That's my problem with gender-specific cars. Women are far brighter human beings than most males are and are perfectly capable of adapting any car to their needs without the need for pink upholstery and in-built cosmetic kits, and don't need manufacturer help. It also begs the question of where the bloke equivalent is – a DS 3 The Lad Bible with an in-built fridge full of Carlsberg and some Liverpool season tickets is just about as ludicrous, but that won't happen any time soon.

The DS 3 is a brilliant car – but chucking make up and silly pink trim at it doesn't improve it one jot.

David is features editor of Classic Car Weekly

The interior of the new DS 3 is pretty in pink...and the make-up below

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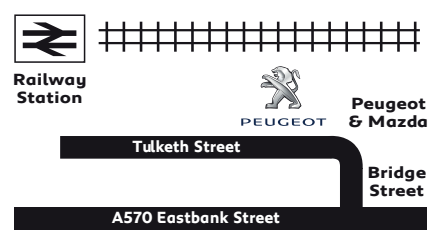

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Pcp Finance Example For An Astra 1.4 16v Energy 5dr*	
Vauxhall List Price	£17,295
Lookers Associate Price	£13,495
Deposit	£299
Amount of Credit	£13,196
48 Monthly Payments of	£199.92
Optional Final Payment	£6,464
Charge for Credit	£2,664.24
Total Amount Payable	£16159.24
APR	6.9%

LOOKERS PRICE £13,495 — ONLY £299 CUSTOMER DEPOSIT — £199 A MONTH*

16 REG ASTRA ENERGY 1.4 T 5DR

SAVE £4,050 Against list price

PCP finance example for an Astra 1.4 T Energy 5DR*	
Vauxhall List Price	£18,045
Lookers Associate Price	£13,995
Deposit	£549
Amount of Credit	£13,446
48 Monthly Payments of	£199.16
Optional Final Payment	£6,766
Charge for Credit	£2,730.52
Total Amount Payable	£16725.52
APR	6.9%

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16 REG ASTRA 1.0 TURBO SRI 5DR

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PCP finance example for an Astra 1.0 Turbo SRI 5DR*	
Vauxhall List Price	£18,595
Lookers Associate Price	£14,695
Deposit	£499
Amount of Credit	£14,196
48 Monthly Payments of	£209.50
Optional Final Payment	£7,254
Charge for Credit	£2,904.50
Total Amount Payable	£17599.50
APR	6.9%

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16 REG ASTRA 1.4 16V SRI 5DR

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PCP finance example for an Astra 1.4 16V SRI 5DR*	
Vauxhall List Price	£17,895
Lookers Associate Price	£13,995
Deposit	£299
Amount of Credit	£13,696
48 Monthly Payments of	£199.63
Optional Final Payment	£7,138
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Total Amount Payable	£16814.91
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*Offer subject to availability. Personal Contract Purchase. Example based on 5,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges apply. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Written quotations available upon request. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received.

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Vauxhall List Price	£13,400	Optional Final Payment	£4,325
Lookers Associate Price	£9,995	Charge for Credit	£1,875.71
Deposit	£499	Total Amount Payable	£11,870.71
Amount of Credit	£9,496	Representative APR	6.9%
48 Monthly Payments of	£149.93		

16 REG CORSA 1.4 75 LIMITED EDITION 3DR

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SAVE £3,920 Against list price

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PCP Finance Example For A Corsa 1.4 75 Limited Edition 3dr Onstar & Sport Pack*

Vauxhall List Price	£14,615	Optional Final Payment	£5,045
Lookers Associate Price	£10,695	Charge for Credit	£2,099.73
Deposit	£249	Total Amount Payable	£12794.73
Amount of Credit	£10,446	Representative APR	6.9%
48 Monthly Payments of	£159.59		

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*Offer subject to availability. Personal Contract Purchase. Example based on 5,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges apply. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Written quotations available upon request. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received.

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- Alloys
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- Alloys
- FSH
- CD Player

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- FSH
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- FSH
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- FSH
- Alloys
- CD Player
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- Leather
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- Alloys
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- FSH

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- FSH
- Alloys
- Priv Glass

NO DEPOSIT

New In

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- Leather
- Sat Nav

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- FSH
- 47000 Miles
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- Sat Nav

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- New Shape
- 1 Owner
- Sat Nav
- FSH

NO DEPOSIT

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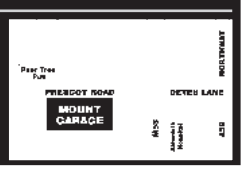

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Monster opening stand sets up Ormskirk win

THE weather may have picked up last weekend but the standard of cricket for some of our ten local clubs in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition certainly didn't, as six were beaten and four victorious.

In the Premier Division, Ormskirk moved within six points of the leaders after a 46 run home win over Rainhill.

The hosts elected to bat and declared after 55 overs on 233-2, thanks in no small part to a 183 run opening partnership between Andy Baybutt (96) and Michael Jones (84), whilst Josh Bohannon weighed in with an unbeaten 35.

In reply Sam Kershaw top scored with 55 for Rainhill as they were bowled out for 187, with Scott Lees grabbing 3-44 and George Lavelle taking 4 catches behind the stumps.

Northern suffered their first defeat of the season as they were beaten by 6 wickets at Bootle, Liam Grey (39) and Jack Boardman (21) were the only batsmen to pass 20 as Northern had no real answer to Chris Liptrot who took 7-46 and helped dismiss the visitors for just 104. In reply, David Snellgrove (46) and Scott Butterworth (29*) took Bootle to victory and to the top of the table on 106-4.

Formby are still looking for their first win of the campaign after a 5 wicket home defeat by Leigh, after elected to bat Lancashire's Stephen Parry (47), Dane Williams (40*), Charlie Gallagher (27) and Tym Crawford (24) took the hosts to 179 all out, with Matty McKiernan taking 6-41. In reply, Lancashire's Luis Reece (78) and Danny Willoughby (43*) took the visitors to 183-5 to wrap up victory.

This weekend's local LDCC Premier League fixtures: Formby v Bootle, Lytham v Ormskirk, Wallasey v Northern.

Burscough continue their perfect start

BURSCOUGH continued their perfect start to their season in the First Division,with a 73 run home win over Highfield.

After being asked to bat the hosts piled up 226-7 dec in 53.4 overs, thanks in the main to Navdeep Aujla (56), Alan Murray (51) and Chris Andrews with an unbeaten 37. In reply only Ryan Hargreaves (40), Michael Gaskell (33) and James Taylor (20) got going with the bat as Aujla's 5-37 helped clinched victory for his team and the man of the match for himself.

Southport & Birkdale climbed into the top two with a 26 run home win over Prestatyn, after electing the bat the hosts racked up 215-9 dec off 55 overs, thanks to valuable contributions from Guy Edwards (43), skipper Chris Firth (29*), Isaac Lea (24), Wim van der Walt (20) and Jackson Burns (20), whilst Gareth Boughey took 3-35 with the ball. In reply, the visitors made S&B fight all the way for victory thanks to 95 from their skipper David Harris, but his opposite number Firth had the final say with 4-29 as the Welshmen were finally dismissed for 189. Fleetwood Hesketh made it two wins out of three with a 5 wicket win at Maghull after the hosts declared after 55 overs on 216-9, thanks to 80 from Jon Ring, 39 from skipper Paul Walters and 35 from Joe Dunne, with Issy Perera taking 4 wickets and Tommy Wareing 3. In reply Neil Rimmer (91) and Huw Summerfield (57) opened up with a superb century stand, before Lee Bolton (20*) hit the winning boundary in the penultimate over to take the visitors to 218-6, with Liam Johnson claiming 4 of the wickets to fall.

Ainsdale are still searching for their first win of the season after a 4 wicket defeat at Northop Hall, after choosing to bat the visitors were bowled out for 162, with the pick of the bowlers being Will Higginson with 6-47. The bowler then helped guide his side home with an unbeaten 68 and Danny Nolan weighed in with 42 as the hosts sealed victory.

Saturday's local Division One and Two fixtures: Prestatyn v Burscough, Sefton Park v Maghull, Hightown St Mary's v Skelmersdale.

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Top coaching on offer at lawn tennis club's open day event

AUGHTON Lawn Tennis Club is hosting a free open day for all budding tennis players – young and old – from absolute beginners to seasoned professionals, on Saturday, May 14 between 10am and 2pm.

The club boasts three grass courts plus five all-weather courts, four of which are floodlit.

During the day you can take the Big Racquet Challenge by trying out your serving accuracy for the chance to win a year's free membership.

You will be able to try out the latest top of the range racquets, experience some coaching plus there'll be refreshments and lots of fun and games.

Club coach, Tom Bamber, will be on hand during the day to give you his top tips and advice on what it takes to become the next Wimbledon champion.

He welcomes all players regardless of their level or ability and is available to provide individual and group coaching sessions at the club all year round.

All are welcome to the open day at Aughton Lawn Tennis Club on Granville Park.

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Skem set for end of season awards night

Ian Rowlands has impressed this season at Skelmersdale

By Neil Leatherbarrow

FRIDAY is a big night in the Stormy Corner Social Club on Skelmersdale United's ground, it is presentation night.

Three trophies are up for grabs, the main Supporters Player of the Year award, followed in no particular order by the Manager's Player of the Year and the Players' Player of the Year.

The Supporters Award could literally go to any one of a number of players and it would be unfair here to put a prospective winner forward, as it would be for the other two trophies.

The Top Goalscorer Award will be handed to Chris Almond with seventeen goals since his September move from Chorley, making his total for the club (he had spells with Southport and the Magpies in between) to 81, just edging out youngster Max Hazeldine.

One player who probably won't get a player of the year trophy is centre-half Ian Rowlands, who has won the Supporters Player of the Month award for April. Ian only signed for Skelmersdale at the end of February and he is one for next season.

Entrance to the night is free and there will a free supper supplied, it starts at 7-30pm, the only request is, could you let a club official know if you intend going so food numbers can be as accurate as possible,

The Champion plan to have a report about events on the night and photographs of the respective winners in next week's paper, plus a number of other news items from Skem United.

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ORMSKIRK & WEST LANCASHIRE Champion

11 May 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 19 www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOUR HEARING AND THE HEALTH OF YOUR EARS AT THIS SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Meet the hearing experts at the ClearChoice Special Exhibition

With so much choice and different fitting options available in the hearing aid market, how can you be sure you are making the right choice for you?

THE ClearChoice Special Exhibitions unites leading hearing aid experts in your local area for an event dedicated to those with hearing concerns.

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone to take advantage of a **FREE Hearing Test**, plus our **Video Otoscope** technology - which gives you the opportunity to see what's going on inside your ear via colour monitor. You can also see and try new hearing aid technology with live demonstrations of your ideal sounding hearing aid and benefit from friendly and professional advice on improved hearing. Whether you have questions about how to care for your ears, you're worried that earwax may be affecting you or you'd like to find out how good or bad your hearing is then this event is the simplest way to find out.

Tiny hearing aids. Huge benefits.

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- Can be custom designed to your specific needs
- Suitable for most types of hearing loss

Buy one get one free on tiny digital hearing aids during our Exhibition.

We will be holding our ClearChoice Special Exhibition at these venues in your area...

Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th May
Brookside Retirement Village
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Friday 27th May
St John The Baptist Church Hall (at back of church)
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Book a FREE hearing assessment at one of our Exhibition venues today on
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Which? **Best hearing aid provider overview**

Following an extensive survey and the views of over 400 **Which?** members who had purchased hearing aids in the last 3 years, independent retailers came out top with a **customer score of 84%**. This score was based on customer satisfaction and recommendation which included levels of service and aftercare.

ClearChoice - Independent sound advice you can trust

Are we qualified?

Our Audiologists hold advanced degrees from accredited universities and have special training in the identification, assessment and non-medical treatment of hearing disorders. They complete a full-time internship, pass a demanding national examination and must be fully licensed. This makes our Audiologists the most qualified to advise you on your hearing.

How long have we been helping people with hearing difficulties?

We have 35 years experience and have fitted over ten thousand digital hearing instruments. An audiologist who has fitted thousands of patients is more likely to recognise and solve problems. Fitting hearing aids correctly is **both** an art and a science. Our Audiologists will maximise the potential of your hearing instruments by using all of the features of your ideal aid, while the less skilled might fail to activate up to 50% of the hearing aid's capabilities.

How will you determine what is best for my hearing situation?

Our Audiologist will take a detailed history of your hearing problem, your expectations, and lifestyle. In addition a thorough tone and speech testing assessment will be carried out. Measurements for comfortable hearing levels are also tested.

Our comprehensive testing is to improve your hearing sensibility and re-establish normal hearing perception.

Are there any hearing aid manufacturers you recommend?

As Independent Audiologists, we work with all the hearing aid manufacturers from around the world. Every hearing loss is unique and one manufacturer product line may not meet the needs of everyone! As we work with the world's choice, we are in the best position possible to select the correct device that will match your needs.

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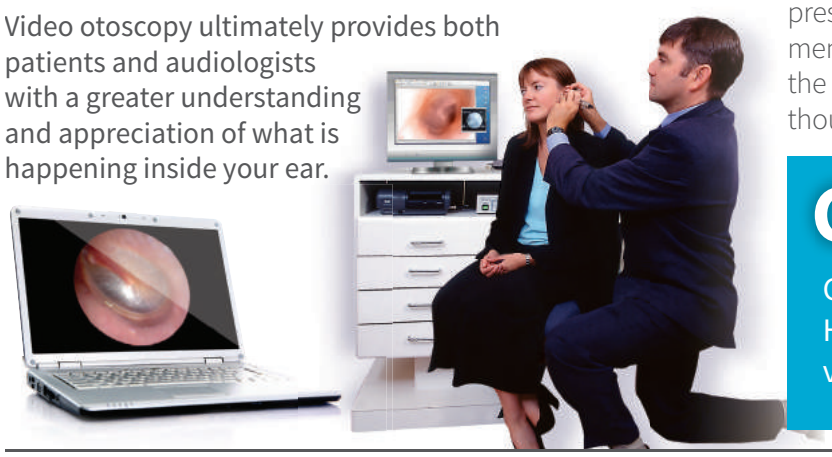
Video otoscopy allows us to clearly visualise the ear canal and ear drum by projecting an image onto a computer monitor.

Using video otoscopy, we can see first hand any conditions such as the presence or build up of wax, or debris in the canal that may cause problems with your hearing.

Give your ears a clean bill of health!

Video otoscopy ultimately provides both patients and audiologists with a greater understanding and appreciation of what is happening inside your ear.



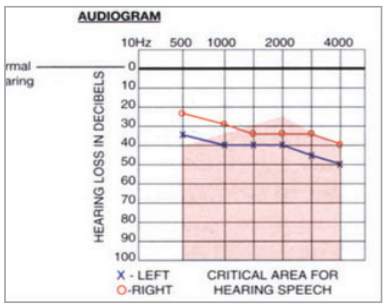
Our **free Audiometric Test** will help us identify your hearing difficulties

If you want to know more about how better hearing can be achieved - your local Hearing Aid Audiological experts will give you the best advice FREE. There is never any obligation and all the valuable information is available to you.

FREE AUDIOMETRIC TEST

Following a discussion on the history of your hearing and a brief ear examination, our Hearing Aid Audiologist will carry out a free comprehensive hearing test. You are asked to respond to a variety of frequencies which allow the Hearing Aid Audiologist to plot your results on a graph. With the results explained, the test is over... it's as simple as that!

We often find it is a great help when testing your hearing to have a familiar voice with you. Part of our full hearing assessment is to present speech in what is called a Speech Clarity Test. A family member or close friend is ideal and they are free to help you with the hearing test as well as ask questions which you may not have thought of yourself.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X - LEFT
O-RIGHT
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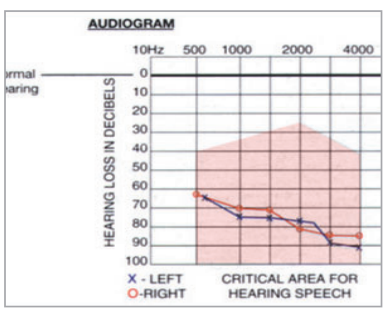
AUDIOGRAM
10Hz 500 1000 2000 4000
HEARING LOSS IN DECIBELS
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
X - LEFT
O-RIGHT
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ClearChoice Special Offer

Claim your **FREE Exhibition gift** - book your FREE Hearing Test at one of the ClearChoice Exhibition venues. **See back page for details.**

Book your hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0800 032 7697

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Clearchoice made simple

It is important to remember that we are all individual and so require individual needs. The ClearChoice Exhibition gives you the opportunity to learn more about your hearing loss and the various options that are available to your particular requirements in order to make your choice as clear and simple as possible. This is due to our vast experience and extensive range of hearing aids available on the market.

We always ensure that your better hearing selection is comfortable to wear and easy to use.

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How ClearChoice Exhibition Events benefit our customers

We are delighted to be of service to local residents

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AUGHTON STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 3BP

Friday 27th May

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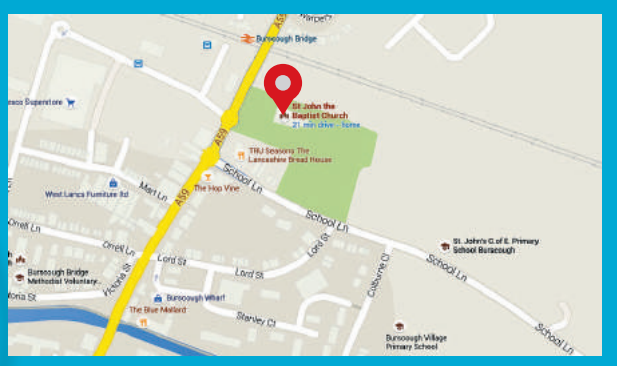

Book a FREE hearing assessment at one of our Exhibition venues today on

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As the ClearChoice Exhibitions have proven to be very popular with local residents, we recommend you call quickly to avoid disappointment.
(Home visits are also available upon request.)

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